

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 8:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Noreen Couture - Chair (Historical)
Dorothy Kibbe (Secretary)
John D. Flynn (Planning Board)
Larry Forrest (Parks and Rec)
Doug Boyd
Bob Burger
Vacant - (Housing)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sheila Thompson - Vice Chair (Conservation)
John M. Flynn

GUEST SPEAKER: **Chris Saccardi** - Community Preservation Coalition (an alliance of open space, affordable housing, and preservation organizations that works with municipalities to help them understand, adopt, and implement the CPA)

MINUTES:

MOTION: Was made by John D. Flynn to accept the minutes with one correction.

SECOND: Larry Forrest

PASSED: Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS:

PARKS AND REC COMMISSION PROPOSAL: The Committee voted (last meeting) to recommend \$6000.00 to Parks and Rec Commission to hire a qualified consultant to explore viable options for Memorial Park Pool (contingent upon it's CPA legality.) Mr. Saccardi confirmed for the committee, that a feasibility study for this purpose was/is a legal use of CPA funds. Therefore, the recommendation stands, passed by a majority vote.

Connie Witt (who attended this meeting) wanted clarification as to whether the feasibility study was for the existing pool or a new one. Larry Forrest explained to her that this was what the study was for, to explore viable options/possibilities. We (CPC committee) are making no decisions or recommendations other than the study itself at this meeting.

In order to go forward with this proposal, Larry Forrest will first, contact the Selectmen for their help/suggestions to petition for a special town meeting, as it is too late for an article to be put on the Warrant for the next upcoming town meeting.

WESTERN MA CONFERENCE: **Mr. Saccardi** passed out a schedule of programs and panels for the Western MA. CPA conference on Saturday, October 25, 2003. Among the topics covered

will be community housing, including housing specialists sharing various housing creation strategies, experiences in working with the Act, and public and private grant programs and technical assistance to help communities plan and pay for local housing initiatives.

He also passed out a list of towns utilizing CPA funds for affordable housing, giving examples of how they achieved affordable housing for their individual communities.

This opened up discussion about meeting affordable housing needs in Hampden. Noreen raised the question of the house next to the Town Hall (which is up for sale) as a possible resource. However, after much discussion, the committee agreed that this was not an option for CPA consideration.

John D. Flynn said he would take the discussion of investigating low income housing as per new developments to the Planning Board. **Mr. Saccardi** confirmed that CPA funds can be used to investigate affordable housing possibilities.

APPLICATION FORM: Requests for C.P.A. monies. Bob Burger presented a Project Submission Form (at the request of the committee) for the committee to review. This form includes the project name, the amount of funds requested and other pertinent questions the committee needs to consider requests for CPA money. This application also states an appointment is necessary for proposals and requests.

MOTION: Was made by John D. Flynn to accept the Project Submission Form.
SECOND: Larry Forrest
PASSED: Unanimous

INFORMATIONAL MEETING: Our annual informational meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 3rd. - 7:00 P.M. - Town Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

MATCHING FUNDS DISTRIBUTED: On October 14, 2003, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue distributed \$27.16 million to 54 cities and towns (out of 351) who had adopted the CPA and added the CPA surcharge to their property tax bills in the previous fiscal year. These state matching funds represent a 100% match of what the communities raised locally. Hampden received \$29,650.00 in state matching funds.

Mr. Saccardi said a slow down in the collection of CPA funds may occur, however at this point, there is a carry over surplus in the CPA fund. Mr. Saccardi suggested a conservative approach, being careful not to commit/spend more than we collect in taxes, as attempts have been made to take CPA money (unsuccessfully thus far). However, with so many budget deficits, more attempts are expected.

GRAFT OF APPROPRIATIONS: Fiscal Year 2003 - (**Mr. Saccardi** passed out to committee members.)

CPA use	Approved	% of total
Housing -	\$10,974,061	48.66
Open Space	5,815,516	25.78
Historic	4,809,081	21.32
Recreation	955,790	4.24

Annual totals for fiscal year 2003 = \$22,554,448 - 100% match

Housing units created:	138
Historic Resources Preserved or Acquired:	54
Open Space Preserved (Acres)	666.49

FIVE YEAR TERM: The committee discussed; How long will CPA remain in effect? CPA remains in effect for a minimum of five years from the date of voter approval in a municipality. After five years, it can be revoked (unless revoked, adoption of the CPA is permanent) in the same manner-legislative body acceptance (simple majority) or initiative petition followed by voter approval-used to approve CPA originally.

In the event CPA is revoked after five years, the surcharge imposed shall remain in effect with respect to unpaid taxes on past transactions and with respect to taxes due on future transactions, until all contractual obligations incurred by the town prior to such termination shall have been fully discharged.

MOTION: Was made by Bob Burger to adjourn.

SECOND: Doug Boyd

PASSED: Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 12, 2003 - 7:00 P.M.. - Town Hall

Respectfully Submitted; Dorothy Kibbe - Secretary