

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting
October 26, 2016**

PRESENT: Gary Crossen - Chair, Mark Gluesing – Vice Chair, Peter Pingitore, Paul Alpert, Artie Crocker

ABSENT: Chris Gerstel, Ron Furman

STAFF: Patricia Carey, Staff Liaison
Kristen Wright, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Andrea Carter, School Committee Representative; Marianne Connolly, MWRA; Lee Fisher, Friends of Hemlock Gorge, Alice Ingerson, Newton Community Preservation Program; Tom Jacob, Finance Committee

Mr. Crossen called the meeting to order at 7:31PM in the Highland Room at Town Hall.

Mr. Crossen welcomed new CPC members Artie Crocker and Peter Pingitore to the group.

Discussion: Future Possible Project – MWRA Echo Bridge:

Representative from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Marianne Connolly and representative from the Friends of Hemlock Gorge Lee Fisher presented information about an ongoing Echo Bridge Railings project (*see Appendix A*). The MWRA is meeting with both Newton and Needham CPC's, as well as Needham Historical Commission and Newton Upper Fall Historic District Commission to gain support and seeking possible funding for the railing project. The Newton Upper Falls Historic Commission voted to support the installation of permanent safety railings with existing MWRA funds, but asked that further work be done to raise funds to restore/replace the historic railings. Mr. Fisher presented the project history from 2007 until present day and distributed fliers to the Committee including the result of 4 construction options (*see Appendix B*). Mr. Crocker asked if any preservation to the bridge has already been completed. Ms. Connolly stated that structural preservation has been completed including removal of graffiti. Mr. Pingitore stated that there was major construction completed in 2006 and asked why the railings were not considered during that construction. Ms. Connolly stated that the 2007 study of the railings was done based on railing conditions discovered during that project. Mr. Crossen asked when MWRA would move forward with the options from the 2007 study. Ms. Connolly stated that if the funding for the full restoration cannot be raised, they will move forward with option 4b, with the safety railings. Mr. Crossen asked what, if any, awareness the Newton Community Preservation Committee has of this project since the property is on both Needham and Newton property. Alice Ingerson from the Newton Community Preservation Program stated that Newton has not had a formal meeting. A pre-proposal meeting and submission would be required to start their process. Mr. Crocker asked if this project could wait a few years to be funded. Mr. Fisher stated that there is currently a temporary fix and is not meant to last forever. Mr. Alpert asked if there were restrictions to the current MWRA funding. Ms. Connolly stated that there were only sufficient funds for the safety railing. Mr. Crossen asked if the MWRA had a deadline for funding. Ms. Connolly stated that there wasn't one but that MWRA would want to move forward with the safety railing if other funds were not imminently available. Mr. Crossen asked about the timelines for both Newton and Needham. Ms. Carey stated that an application would need to be received by the December 1st deadline to be considered for 2017 May Town Meeting. Ms. Ingerson stated that Newton CPC would need to receive a pre-proposal and determine whether to take the project off-cycle, or for a future year. Mr. Gluesing asked if the MWRA had more options to raise funds for this project. Ms. Connolly stated that they would fund the solution found from the feasibility study (4b). Ms. Carey stated that the MWRA has \$250,000, and does not have additional funds without

fundraising or CPC funds. She has reviewed grant options and not been successful. Mr. Gluesing asked if a waiver could be sought from the railing codes, as Echo Bridge is an historic structure. Ms. Connolly stated that the MWRA requires meeting the building codes. Mr. Crossen thanked Ms. Connolly and Mr. Fisher for their presentation and Ms. Ingerson for her input.

Discussion: Review of Financing for Anticipated Upcoming Projects:

Mr. Crossen opened the discussion for anticipated upcoming projects. Ms. Carey stated that the Sediment Removal project received good news about the type of sediment in the lake isn't super contaminated which should keep transportation costs down. Ms. Carey stated that the CPC should expect applications for the Rosemary Recreation Complex for the next phase of work, the Reservoir Trail from the Conservation Commission, and the Trail system at the new Hillside site. Ms. Carey stated that Town Capital projects include the new Hillside school in 2019, Mitchell School, Emery Grover, High School renovations, Mitchell renovations, and the Memorial Park building currently has a feasibility study in the works. Mr. Gluesing has met with representatives of the Rosemary Recreation project to begin the process of determining which portions are eligible for CPC funding.

Ms. Carey explained the steps in the CPC review process:

- Receive all applications by December 1st.
- Determine eligibility at December meeting; assign liaisons
- Invite proponents to present at the 2nd January and 1st February meetings
- Hold a public hearing about all eligible projects in March
- Consult with the Board of Selectman and the Finance Committee
- Vote to recommend projects for funding to Town Meeting

Schedule: Upcoming Meetings:

Mr. Crossen asked everyone to review the anticipated meeting dates: December 14, January 11, January 25, February 8, February 22, March 8, March 22. Mr. Crossen would like to have a discussion about the meeting time starting at 7 PM or continuing at 7:30 PM.

Minutes: June 15, 2016:

Mr. Alpert made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2016 meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Gluesing. The minutes were approved, with a vote of 3-0-2.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gluesing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10PM. Mr. Alpert seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright,
Recording Secretary