

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

**Minutes of Meeting
February 5, 2020**

PRESENT: Peter Pingitore – Chairman, Paul Alpert, Rick Zimbone, Joe Barnes, Chris Gerstel, Robert Dermody

ABSENT: Artie Crocker – Vice Chairman, Laura Dorfman

STAFF: Carys Lustig, Staff Liaison, Kristen Wright, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Carl Franceschi, First Parish Church
Ann Barrett, First Parish Church
Ross Donald, Needham Housing Authority
Joe Leghorn, Needham Community Farm
Susan McGarvey, First Parish Church & Town Meeting Member
Susan Shaver, Needham Community Farm
John Crimmings, Town Meeting Member
James Fuller, First Baptist Church
Rex Kidd, Capital Masonry – First Parish Church
Ernie Steeves, First Baptist Church
Reverend Catie Scudera, First Parish Church

Mr. Pingitore called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Highland room at Town Hall.

Vote: Approve Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes of January 8, 2020. Mr. Gerstel moved to accept the minutes from January 8, 2020. Mr. Barnes seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

The Committee reviewed the minutes of January 22, 2020. Mr. Gertsel moved to accept the minutes from January 22, 2020. Mr. Alpert seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Proponents Presentations

Mr. Pingitore moved FY2020-01 to later in the meeting.

FY2020-03 Needham Community Farm – Growing Bed Area Expansion

This request is for \$6,000 for the expansion of a growing area of the Community Farm under Recreation.

Liaison – Mr. Gerstel

Mr. Leghorn presented to the committee. Mr. Dermody asked what will happen to the removed wood. Mr. Leghorn stated that they will repurpose what they can and dispose of the rest. Mr. Barnes asked if the funding is granted what is the projects timeline. Mr. Leghorn stated that the work will be completed in Spring 2021. Mr. Pingitore asked if the planking areas would create French drains. Mr. Leghorn stated that the planks would be placed at grade. Mr. Pingitore asked if the Needham Community Farm would return if the pilot program goes well. Mr. Leghorn stated that they would likely return to expand the program if it goes well. Mr. Leghorn stated that other funding sources would require selling more than half of the growth which would impact the amount they could provide

to the food pantry. Ms. Lustig stated that the request is being increased from \$6,000 to \$6,200. Mr. Pingitore thanked Mr. Leghorn.

FY2020-01 First Baptist Church - Front Porch Preservation & Restoration

This request is for \$126,233 for the restoration and preservation of its historic and street facing front porch under Historic Preservation.

Liaisons – Mr. Dermody and Mr. Zimbone

Mr. Steeves presented to the committee. Mr. Steeves stated that the request is being amended to \$90,200. Mr. Dermody asked about the breakdown of different costs. Mr. Kidd discussed the hardscapes of the project. Mr. Pingitore asked about the façade work regarding the replacement of the cornice piece when the structural engineer only provides the opinion of the columns. Mr. Barnes shared concerns about the funding. Mr. Zimbone stated the timeline to begin the work in the summer 2020. Mr. Pingitore stated that he'd like to see an income statement and budget. Mr. Pingitore thanked Mr. Steeves for the presentation.

FY2020-02 First Parish Church – Steeple Preservation

This request is for \$75,000 for the preservation of its historic steeple (Bell Tower) under Historic Preservation.

Liaisons – Mr. Dermody and Mr. Barnes

Reverend Scudera, Mr. Franceschi and Ms. Barrett presented to the committee. Mr. Pingitore asked about the funding for the previous project that cost three (3) million dollars. Mr. Franceschi stated that it was a capital campaign. Reverend Scudera stated that 75% of the project was funded by pledges. Mr. Pingitore asked what would be painted. Mr. Franceschi stated the wooden pieces and the dome would need to be painted. Mr. Pingitore asked when the work would need to be completed again. Mr. Franceschi stated it would last about 15-20 years. Mr. Pingitore thanked Reverend Scudera, Mr. Franceschi and Ms. Barrett for their presentation.

Liaison Updates

FY2020-04 Needham Conservation – Trail Identification – Design

This request is for \$6,000 for design funding to design a cohesive trail identification system with signing for all trails in Needham under Open Space and Recreation.

Liaison – Mr. Pingitore

No updates presented

FY2020-06 Needham DPW & Park and Recreation – Claxton Field Light & Skin Renovation

This request is for \$101,500 for design funding to design field light improvements as well as evaluate the conditions of the field skins under Recreation.

Liaison – Mr. Crocker

Ms. Lustig updated the committee. Mr. Dermody asked if the outfields would be permanent. Mr. Gerstel stated that it would.

FY2020-07 Needham DPW & Park and Recreation – Resurface Synthetic Track at DeFazio

This request is for \$160,000 for construction funding to resurface the track at DeFazio field under Recreation.

Liaisons – Ms. Dorfman and Mr. Alpert

Ms. Lustig updated the committee.

Chairman's Updates

Mr. Pingitore discussed the questions that Dave Tobin provided regarding eligibility discussion points. Mr. Gerstel asked who would designate when the Town would get the money back. Mr. Dermody asked if language could be included to state that the funding cannot be used for maintenance or to support specific religious activity. Ms. Lustig stated that funding is a reimbursement process where the invoices have to be submitted to the Town to be processed. Ms. Lustig stated the Mr. Tobin would be at the February 26th meeting. Mr. Dermody asked if there have been agreements with other private entities. Mr. Alpert stated that the statute allows agreements for Historic Preservation.

Next Meeting Dates

The Committee reviewed the next meeting dates as presented on the agenda. Mr. Zimbone requested to receive a financial update from Mr. Davison. Mr. Donald asked about the previously funding granted to the Housing Authority. Ms. Lustig stated that the Housing Authority would seek reimbursements.

Adjournment

Mr. Gerstel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17PM. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright
Recording Secretary