

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020  
REGULAR MEETING - 7:00PM  
SENIOR CENTER, TOWN HALL, NORTHFIELD  
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Lara Dubin, Chair (LD), Robin Conley (RC), Charley Eiseman (CE), Bob Henry (BH), Mary King (MK), Tony Matteo (TM), Carol Pike (CP)

Members Absent: Tammy Pelletier

Others in Attendance: Bruce Wooster, Mike LaRue

***CALL TO ORDER***

LD called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

***I. WELCOME***

LD welcomed guests who were there to discuss the First Parish Church's steeple preservation proposal.

***II. STEEPLE PRESERVATION PRESENTATION***

Bruce Wooster and Mike Larue distributed documents related to the First Parish Church's steeple's damage, its repair estimates, and their request for the town to help fund the repairs.

Bruce and Mike, and the committee members, discussed the proposal. Bruce and Mike noted the damage is more extensive than originally presented; structural defects—notably, a cracked support beam—were revealed during a recent inspection, and the cause is likely from wind. The original estimate was for \$20,000, but it was a rough guess due to their inexperience with construction costs. The current estimates range from \$66,000-\$85,000. Bruce and Mike said that once repairs begin, even more damage may be revealed and the cost could continue to rise.

The group, along with guests, also discussed: the project's budgets, the age of the building, different approaches and estimates for repairs, the importance of the church building to the town's history and current culture, and sources of funding. Bruce and Mike said they are waiting for an estimate from their insurance company, and they expect it within the next few weeks. The next step in this proposal process is for them to submit the estimate documents to the CPC.

TM noted that if the CPC decides to fund this project, it would require placing an article on the warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting, so be mindful of timing. TM added that even if the CPC doesn't have exact figures by the time the article must be submitted, they can still issue the article and use a placeholder for the project cost, then update it right before Town Meeting. LD offered to research and confirm the deadline for placing articles on the warrant, and said the CPC may meet an additional time before Town Meeting to work on this. LD and TM discussed how to prepare voters for this article before and during Town Meeting.

LD noted that if Town Meeting approves funding for this project, there is no deadline for completing the work, but if it takes more than a year, Bruce and Mike should notify the CPC.