

DRAFT MINUTES
TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
Town Hall
February 15, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Tony Matteo (Chair), Ted Thornton, Lara Dubin, Rhoda Yucavitch, Carol Lebo, Charlie Eiseman, Tammy Pelletier, Bob Henry
Absent: Robin Conley

Committee Chair Tony Matteo called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted.

1. WARRANT ARTICLE FOR UPCOMING TOWN MEETING

Tony reported he has been in touch with Alison Leary at the CPA Office in Boston. Ms. Leary will help us polish the following draft of an article the CPC wants on the warrant for this year's May Town Meeting:

ARTICLE - To see if the Town will vote to raise the current assessment rate for the Community Preservation Act from 0.5% to 1%.

REASON - About half the cities and towns in the Commonwealth currently participate in the Community Preservation Act program. State matching funding has been drying up, and at the present time, Northfield is the only town with the rate below 1%. In order to continue funding projects that benefit the town, many of which would have been funded from the town's general tax revenues, we feel that a 1% raise is appropriate. Also, any state matching funds will reduce the burden on the town's finances.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the draft article.

2. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS

a). "The Purchase of a Commemorative Plaque for Northfield's First Fire Station" -- Carol Lebo presented at the February 1 CPC meeting for the Northfield Historical Commission. The Commission wants to install a 12 x 18 inch plaque to the left of the door into the current Boy Scout House adjacent to Town Hall to read: "First Fire Station, Northfield, 1924." Estimates: \$600-800 for the plaque itself and \$100-150 for installation. The project requests an amount of \$700-950 from CPA funds. The proposal lists no other sources of funding.

ACTION: The Committee voted unanimously to allocate the full \$950.00 requested. Carol Lebo, speaking for the Historical Commission, reported that a ceremony in recognition of the new plaque will be held, and that the Fire Department will be invited to participate. The Historical Commission will also try to locate a picture of the building taken during the time it was in service as a Fire Department building.

b). "Town Hall Renovation Project Phase III" --- presented at the February 1 CPC meeting by Stephen Seredynski (with Select Board Member Jack Spanbauer also in attendance). The proposal states, "This is the final phase of a multi year project to replace all of the old wiring in town hall (some of which is 100

years old), improve the efficiency of the lighting, upgrade the fire alarm system, and restore the building exterior."

Total costs: \$150,686.00. A sum of \$124,049.00 will be raised from other sources. The project requests \$29,177.00 from CPA funds.

ACTION: The Committee voted unanimously to allocate \$25,000 for this project. Supplemental note: Some parts of the town hall proposal would not be covered by the concept of "historical preservation," and for this reason the requested amount was reduced.

c). "Northfield Elementary School Playground Renovation" -- Cheryl George presented at the February 1 CPC meeting for the Northfield Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization (NES PTO). The proposal states, "the current [play] structures are approximately 20 years old, are showing signs of significant deterioration, and are no longer in compliance with current playground safety codes."

Cheryl says Town Hall has assured her that liability/insurance issues connected with the volunteer labor that will be needed to install the new structures are covered.

Total cost for the equipment is \$75,000. PTO is requesting \$60,000 from CPA funds. Additional funding will be drawn from the PTO's savings account of \$10,000 earmarked for playground renovation, plus \$12,500 from other grants and fund raising efforts.

When asked by Tony to prioritize separate items in the proposal, Cheryl stated that the top priority would be the structure for "big kids" estimated to cost around \$35,000.

ACTION: The Committee voted unanimously to allocate \$30,000 for this project.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was further discussion on ways to prepare the town for the CPC warrant article to be presented at the upcoming Town Meeting asking the town to vote to increase the CPA tax assessment from .5% to 1%. We plan to insert PDF copies from the PowerPoint slide presentation we made at our CPA Forum last November into an upcoming Town Newsletter. Additionally, Tony has been in touch with Senior Center Director Heather Tower to arrange a presentation on the warrant at an upcoming Senior Center event, in April.

If further CPC business is required this cycle, the Committee will meet on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ted Thornton, Secretary *pro tem*

