

Pelham Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of April 15, 2021

Recorded by Cyd Reiman

Meeting held remotely via Zoom

Members attending: Tom Fanning, Jim Lumley, Barbara Cooper, Judy Eisman, Cyd Reiman

Meeting convened: 6:05PM EST

1) March 15,2021 meeting minutes approved by 4 members, 1 abstention

2) Discussion of affordable housing and sharing of information gathered by Cyd and Barbara.

Cyd shared information obtained from Easthampton Asst. Planner Jamie Webb. The Rental Assistance program was started in Easthampton without data of need. Most difficult aspects of starting their program was how to affordably administer the program as there was no one on their existing staff who was able to take on that task.

Barbara gathered some statistics from “Data Town” a tool used by the Mass Housing Partnership.

There are 571 homes in Pelham and 1313 residents- 26.7% are renters. This data is from 2019 however.

She also found out there have been 10 new unemployment claims in Pelham.

Further discussion by Tom revealed that according to Pelham School Principal Lee Whiting Jones 56% of School employees live outside of Pelham. Barbara had other stats saying there were more than 56% that lived out of town.

CPC members are not sure Rental Assistance should come from the CPA but instead from other more well funded options such as new monies allotted to Massachusetts by the federal government and the state totalling \$968 million (according to a State House News Service article in the Hampshire Gazette April 8). Also, this may be more well suited to be under the purview of the Affordable Housing Committee.

Group suggestions on how to get the word out to Pelham residents about available assistance were:

- a) Through the Pelham Town website with input from the Selectboard
- b) Asking the Council on Aging and Board of Health to make the information available
- c) Printing the information in the Pelham Slate newsletter

3) Reviewing the “Tracing of CPA projects” from appropriation to closure”..a step by step checklist of how to track the process of a project from start to finish and how to efficiently and accurately keep track of funds and work being done.

Tom suggested that steps” b” through “f” (see agenda of March 18, 2021) be undertaken by the CPC member outside committee is responsible; ex: Con Comm for an open space project. Tom asked the committee as a whole Reflect on these steps and report back.

Further discussion ensued about the lack of accuracy of the Town Tax collector and other Town employees that are involved with Town accounting. Tom would like a paper trail of each project and CPC transaction. Barbara suggested

A copy of each invoice to stay with the CPC. Judy suggested a table or chart. She will look into creating one or obtaining one that is appropriate for us to use.

4) Open accounts- Barbara shared \$5,005.85 was returned from the Habitat for Humanity project.

5) This item about needing a Treasurer dovetails off the discussion of item #3.

6) Conservation & Historic concerns about 20-22 Amherst Rd project..

The developers own the North side of the stream as well as the South side. The Kestrel Trust and Con Comm. will take charge with Conservation restrictions, but Kestrel Trust needs to agree to take it over. As of now, Home City Developement still owns it.

Tom is concerned with the protection and preservation of an old mill foundation downstream from the project. He also learned there is supposedly an old millstone underneath a flag pole at the HRD Press site.

Other business: We still need a Con Comm. representative on the CPC. Judy will send all Con Comm. members' Email addresses to Cyd and Tom. The next Con Comm. meeting is April 29.

Judy will not be available for CPA meetings for a while due to a heath procedure.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:30 PM EST