

# Longmeadow Community Preservation Committee

Date: April 5, 2018      Time: 6:45 p.m.      Location: Council on Aging

Approved as presented at the September 27, 2018 meeting Page 1

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## Minutes of April 5, 2018 CPC Meeting

Present: Linda Glenn, Sheri Knight, Ron Manseau, Arlene Miller, Jeff Rintoul, and Steven Weiss

Absent: John Bresnahan, Donald Holland

Guests: Ed Kline (Chair of the Longmeadow Housing Authority) and Phil Hallahan (Member of the Longmeadow Housing Authority)

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### 1. Minutes from prior meeting:

- Minutes from January 24, 2018 meeting were approved as corrected.

### 2. Report from the Chair: Chairman Weiss reported on several issues.

- Chairman Weiss reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Beth Green, who is relocating and can no longer serve on the committee. The entire committee expressed that it was a pleasure to work with Beth and acknowledged the significant contribution she made to the program. She will be missed. We are all thankful for her service.
- The Acton decision was discussed. The SJC has rendered a decision that is some 80 pages long. The decision does not prohibit the use of CPA funds for religious institutions but does spell out three specific criteria that must be met before such an application may be considered for funding. Chairman Weiss will write a summary of the three criteria and all agreed that should be posted on our website.
- Chairman Weiss reported that the State CPC has determined that the first round of CPA distribution funds to municipalities this year is down to 11%. That is the lowest it has ever been. This reflects the enormous popularity of the program, with many more communities adopting the Act.

### 3. Preparations for Town Meeting: The Annual Town meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Longmeadow High School Gymnasium. There were two relevant points of interest for the committee.

- The proponents of the “Wolf Swamp Road fields improvement” project have submitted an article to the Warrant by citizen petition for \$155,000. There was a general discussion about this action. All agreed that, as a committee, we should remain neutral on this article.
- Chairman Weiss reported that all articles submitted by our committee were reviewed by Town Council. Town Council had issue with two of the articles, both were related to picnic tables. After some discussion, the committee concluded that we would not withdraw either article at this time. It was noted that the Select Board was appreciative of our work.

#### **4. Joint discussion with members of the Longmeadow Housing Authority:**

- Ed Kline and Phil Hallahan of the Longmeadow Housing Authority shared with us issues related to their mission and the history of their deliberative process as well as many attempts to promote the creation of more “affordable Housing” in Longmeadow. Mr. Kline stated that Longmeadow was one of six towns in the Massachusetts that does not have any Housing Authority units.
- There was a very collaborative discussion and sharing of information. It was stated that CPC members are eager to participate in a meaningful, affordable housing project and that there is about \$185,000 in our reserves dedicated to housing.
- All agreed that we would continue to communicate and to keep informed about any suitable property that becomes available.

#### **5. Review of Project request 2018-9: Feasibility Study of the Former Train Station:**

- Chairman Weiss reported that the Demolition Delay Committee met and visited the old train station site (the current DPW administrative building). They concluded that, as a result of their site visit, the station does have the potential to be a site of historic significance. Therefore the requirement stated by the CPC committee for the proposed project has been met and the project should move forward as described.

#### **6. Outstanding projects:** The committee reviewed about 8 quarterly reports from 2017 and 2018. The reports were very helpful. No issues were raised.

#### **7. New Business:** The Chair reviewed our tasks for the next few months and they included the approval of proposed projects at Town meeting, letters being sent to all successful awardees (Marisa will do this), and updating our website. In addition, we need to keep the task of updating our CPC plan booklet on our to-do list. We agreed to meet again in September.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM  
Minutes submitted by Arlene Miller