

TOWN OF BELMONT
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC)

DATE: November 20, 2020

Minutes: Wednesday, September 9, 2020, Zoom Public Meeting, 6:00PM TIME: 9:26 AM
Present: Elizabeth Dionne, Margaret Velie, Adam Dash, David Kane, Michael Chesson,
Gloria Leipzig
Other: Anthony Ferrante, Anne Marie Mahoney, Betsy Lipson, Cortney Eldridge, Glen
Castro
Absent: Andy Rojas, Stephen Pinkerton, Natasha Klemek

Elizabeth Dionne called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Project Status Update

Special Application - Emergency Rental Assistance Phase Two \$100K

Betsy Lipson gave a presentation for the Phase Two Emergency Rental Assistance:

- 69 application received by August 14th deadline;
- Most applicants live in 2 or 3 bedroom homes;
- Most applicants are in households with 3-4 people;
- Over 152 emails and 64 phone inquiries received more people in town needed this program;
- Application process from inquiry to completion was a challenge for applicants as they needed assistance;
- Phase Two program eligibility is the same as the Phase One;
- Additional \$100K to be used for others that did not meet the August 14th deadline

Betsy presented an image from an affordable housing group. The highest risk are the non-assisted renters who are not able to make the rent because of unemployment due to COVID-19. Metro Planning Area Council (MAPC) estimated that about 195 Belmont household will need assistance. \$80K to \$86K will go towards rental assistance and \$11K to \$13K will go towards administrative costs based on 25 to 30 enrolled households. If there are no applications received, the money will be returned to Belmont. Elizabeth suggested that the focus of CPC spending going forward should be on building permanent affordable housing units.

Special Application – Belmont Police Station Restoration and Expansion \$100K

Anthony gave a presentation of the front stairs. The front stairs were not included in the original scope of work. The building was in use so the front stairs could not be accurately assessed. The DPW/BPD building committee at the time was working on limited funds and trying to avoid additional borrowing. The decision to do the front stairs would be appropriate while the design team, contractors, and police are still at the modular units. The police station project will be completed late winter or late spring; any remaining money will be turned back to the town. The

concern is not the surface but resetting the steps. Anne Marie stated that funds were tight before going out to bid and did not know whether higher bids would be received. This could be a separate project and funded by the Capital Budget Committee but funding was cut to balance fiscal year 2021 budget. Elizabeth stated that both emergency rental assistance program phase two and Belmont police restoration and expansion applications met the special application requirements. CPC has previously endorsed both projects.

Town Field Playground Restoration \$680,624

Cortney Eldridge gave an update on the Town Field Playground Restoration. Project costs are increasing due to inflation but working towards meeting the budgeted amount. \$25K has been achieved so far from fund raising. This project has been ongoing for five years. Cortney is working with Jay Marcotte and WDG consultants to stay on track with the project timeline.

- Construction bids will be in February 2021;
- DPW and WDG will review all bids in March 2021;
- Contractor will be recommended in April 2021;
- Contract will be awarded in May 2021;
- Construction will conclude in September 2021

David moved to adjourn CPC public meeting, passed unanimously. Second by Michael.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Castro