

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: January 13, 2022
TIME: 2:55 PM

**TOWN OF BELMONT
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC)**

Minutes: Wednesday, December 8, 2021, Zoom Public Meeting
Present: Elizabeth Dionne, Margaret Velie, Michael Chesson, David Kane, Juliet Jenkins,
Mark Paolillo, Sarah Caputo, Gloria Leipzig, Stephen Pinkerton
Other: Matthew Haskell
Absent:

Elizabeth Dionne called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

I) Review Final FY23 Applications

- Restoration of Belmont's Historic Tower Clock, sponsored by Belmont Citizens Forum and the First Church of Belmont Unitarian Universalists, category Historic Preservation, amount requested \$26,100. This project has the support of the Belmont Historic District Commission and will also fulfill the requirement of a 10% fundraising goal. Elizabeth stated that although the chance of a lawsuit on this project is unlikely, she would most likely not endorse the use of CPA funds to litigate the matter. Should this happen, the committee would need to vote on whether or not they would like to use administrative funds to defend this project. Michael added that the Belmont Historical Society also submitted a letter of support for this project.
 - Stephen moved to recommend the final application of the Restoration of Belmont's Historic Tower Clock to Town Meeting. Seconded by Gloria. The motion passed, 7 Yeas, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention (Sarah).

- Grove Street Baseball and Basketball Reconstruction, sponsored by the Town of Belmont partnered with Friends of Grove Street Park as well as Belmont Youth Baseball and Softball, category Recreation, amount requested \$40,000. The Recreation Department as well as the Recreation Commission have confirmed that this is a top priority Park in Belmont and would most likely be at the top of the list of the study of parks in need of repair/ restoration. Chair of the Recreation Commission, Courtney Eldridge, confirmed that at this time the Recreation Commission has not formally voted on the project and will take that up at their next meeting. Elizabeth asked if the CPC would be willing to approve recommendation of this project tonight with the stipulation that the project must be formally endorsed by the Recreation Commission.
 - David moved to recommend the final application of the Grove Street Baseball and Basketball Reconstruction to Town Meeting with the condition that the project receive a favorable report from the Recreation Commission. Seconded by Margaret. The motion passed, 7 Yeas, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention (Stephen).

- Belmont Cemetery Preservation Master Plan with Treatment, sponsored by the Department of Public Works and the Cemetery Commission, category Historic Preservation, amount requested \$60,000. Gloria wanted to be sure that this study is

geared towards historic preservation and restoration and does not go outside the scope of what the CPC is allowed to fund. Elizabeth said that she would confirm this with Stuart from the Community Preservation Coalition. Juliet Jenkins brought up that with projects that take on public spaces there is sometimes a requirement to review accessibility. Elizabeth said that she believes that some historic areas are exempt from this. Michael said that he was not aware of any specifics regarding this cemetery and those types of requirements. Juliet said that she was looking at this through the lens of public benefit and that because these are public dollars that it is good to think about if the public can access it to see what their dollars were spent on. Elizabeth said that she would note in the project's letter that the CPC would like to see added consideration for accessible walkways in the cemetery. Michael also said that he would like to see consideration for signs to be added for the historically notable figures who are buried in the cemetery; he has seen this in other old cemeteries. The Historic District Commission has voted their support of this project and the Belmont Historical Society submitted a letter of support for this project as well.

- Michael moved to recommend the final application of the Belmont Cemetery Preservation Master Plan with Treatment to Town Meeting with the conditions that Elizabeth receive further confirmation of the project from the Community Preservation Coalition as well as the recommendation letter including provisions for historic focus of the study and accessibility. Seconded by Gloria. The motion passed, 8 Yeas, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions.
- Belmont Community Path Phase 2, sponsored by the Community Path Project Committee, category Recreation, amount requested \$200,000. This project cost in total is \$450,000, but the State has agreed to fund \$250,000 of this project through an earmark. Juliet asked what would happen if the earmark is not received. Elizabeth answered that the project would then most likely come back to the CPC for the total amount, but that would put them in the next funding cycle.
 - Stephen moved to recommend the final application of the Belmont Community Path Phase 2 to Town Meeting. Seconded by Michael. The motion passed, 8 Yeas, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions.
- Town Field Playground and Court Restoration, sponsored by Friends of Town Field Playground, category Recreation, amount requested \$250,662. Recreation Commission voted in favor of this additional funding for this project. (Mark Paolillo joined the meeting.) Juliet mentioned that it would be useful to see the funding amounts for this year's projects broken into each funding category to see a snapshot of where the funding is going. Historically the CPC has done most of its funding in the Recreation category. David noted that the Recreation category is very broad. Elizabeth added that when a project could fit either Open Space or Recreation the Community Preservation Coalition has recommended that the Town choose Recreation because that category is much more flexible than Open Space. Margaret added that the total project cost should reflect all of the funding. Elizabeth agreed and said that it will be updated before Town Meeting.
 - David moved to recommend the final application of the Town Field Playground and Court Restoration to Town Meeting with the condition that

the total project cost includes the prior appropriated amounts. Seconded by Stephen. The motion passed, 9 Yeas, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions.

- Predevelopment Funding for the Revitalization of Sherman Gardens, sponsored by Belmont Housing Authority, category Community Housing, amount requested \$400,000. Margaret pointed out that the final application uses the word restoration, and that is really not the spirit of the project and should probably be revised. Gloria and Elizabeth agreed and Elizabeth said that she would reach out to the project sponsor to clarify that wording.
 - Stephen moved to recommend the final application of Predevelopment Funding for the Revitalization of Sherman Gardens to Town Meeting subject to minor changes to the final application to emphasize redevelopment over renovation for the use of CPA funds. Seconded by David. The motion passed, 8 Yeas, 0 Nay, 1 Abstentions (Gloria).

- Phase II Construction Plans for the Revitalization of Payson Park, sponsored by the Friends of Payson Park, category Recreation, amount requested \$1,031,792.72. This project is supported by the Department of Public Works. The Recreation Commission recommended that the CPC approve this project at their December 6, 2021 meeting. Elizabeth stated that her understanding of what the Recreation Commission discussed at their meeting is that doing this project now does not preclude a bandstand or pavilion in the park in the future, nor does it increase the cost of doing one in the future. Elizabeth stated that the park is in great need of repair and that she supports moving this project forward. Michael Chesson voiced his agreement. Mark voiced his support as well, specifically because this does not preclude an application for a bandstand at the park in the future. David voiced his support. David stated that this project does include a space for the concerts to continue and that Payson Park is the best place for these to occur in town. Juliet said that she is in support of revitalizing the park, but wanted to note that our expectations of project sponsors and their notification should be increased. Elizabeth stated that the project sponsors really went out of their way to ensure that this project does not affect tee ball in any way and to ensure that the field remains in the same space that it occupies today. As for notifying those in charge of the Payson Park Music Festival, Elizabeth did agree that more outreach is better than less, but she invited DPW Director Jay Marcotte to speak to the notification process. Jay outlined the outreach process that the Department of Public Works does for every park project. The department sends flyers to a 300-foot radius. In this case that was about 250 fliers and the department sent those out 3 separate times. Jay said that there were about 35 attendees of the first public outreach meeting, about 40 at the second, and about 25 at the third outreach meeting. The Music Festival organizers were in attendance of the first outreach meeting, but did not attend the other two. The outreach for each meeting was identical with paper flyers hand delivered by the department to the doors or mailboxes of those 250 households about a week in advance of the meetings. This has been their process for each park project. Grove Street was a little different because the baseball organization offered to fund the design and build of batting cages if they were included in the project. Elizabeth went on to say that Erin Lubien did show her an email that Jay did reach out to Erin

personally. Elizabeth also stated that Jay has said he reached out to Tomi Olson as well. Jay then noted that he invited Tomi Olson to an onsite meeting with himself, the Assistant Town Administrator Jon Marshall, and well as Activitas, but unfortunately did not hear back. Elizabeth thanked Juliet for bringing that up and said that the committee should always work to improve communications, but wanted to get on record the notification that was completed.

- Art Kreiger, an abutter, spoke in support of this project and agreed that this project will increase the safety of the park and that it should not be held up for the bandstand.
- Judith Feinleib spoke in support of the project and stated that this project is a project to increase the safety of the park. She stated that at this time the park is not safe.
- Elizabeth asked the project sponsors, Linda Oates and Sue Croy what happens to the current pad? Linda said that their project does not touch the pad, but that the electric box on the pad should be reviewed and fixed by the Town. Sue Croy spoke to many of the hazards in the current park and that it is currently not accessible.
- Stephen moved the question. Seconded by Mark. The motion passed, 9 Yeas, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions.
- Mark moved to recommend the final application of Phase II Construction Plans for the Revitalization of Payson Park to Town Meeting. Seconded by Gloria. The motion passed, 9 Yeas, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions.

II) Meeting Minutes

- Tabled Until Next Meeting

III) Admin Expenses

- Town Treasurer Floyd Carman submitted Matt Haskell's hours from July 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021 totaling 58.25 hours. Elizabeth noted that she believes the hourly rate is \$35 an hour, but will confirm.
 - Gloria moved to approve 58.25 hours for administrative assistance. Seconded by David. The motion passed, 9 Yeas, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions.
- Michael moved to approve Anderson and Kreiger invoice #140299 dated November 25, 2021 in the amount of \$898.00. Seconded by Gloria. The motion passed, 9 Yeas, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions.

IV) Project Extensions

- Mark moved to extend the following projects to December 31, 2022:
 - Fiscal Year 2018, Assessment and Project Redevelopment of Sherman Gardens
 - Fiscal Year 2019, McLean Barn Conditions Stabilization
 - Fiscal Year 2019, Construction of Grove Street Park Intergenerational Walking Path
 - Fiscal Year 2019, Community Path Off-Cycle Project Alexander Avenue Underpass
 - Fiscal Year 2020, Belmont Police Station

- Fiscal Year 2020, Town Hall Complex Slate Roofs
- Fiscal Year 2020, Community Path Phase 1b (Brighton Street to Clark Street Bridge) Design

Seconded by Stephen. The motion passed, 9 Yeas, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions.

Margaret reminded the committee that the Preserving Belmont's Original Vital Records and Digitizing Belmont's Town Meeting Records projects had previously been extended to June of 2022. Also that the Clay Pit Pond: Preservation and Restoration of Vegetation and Rock Meadow: Habitat Preservation Control of Non-native & Invasive Vegetation projects had been extended to December 2023.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:15PM

- David moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Michael. Elizabeth took vote by unanimous consent for this motion, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Haskell