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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: July 18, 2022
TIME: 2:28 PM

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

Minutes: Wednesday, April 13, 2022, Zoom Public Meeting
Present: Elizabeth Dionne, Margaret Velie, Roy Epstein, Sarah Caputo, Stephen Pinkerton,
David Kane, Michael Chesson, Gloria Leipzig, Juliet Jenkins
Other: Matthew Haskell, Chris Doyle, Anne Marie Mahoney
Absent:

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

I) Presentation of the Long-Term Capital Planning Committee by-law

- a. Elizabeth Dionne turned the meeting over to Chris Doyle. Chris stated that the new committee's name is to be the "Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee" (CCBC). She explained that this committee is to expand the scope of the current Capital Budget Committee (CBC) as well as to increase the size of the committee (from 7 to 9 members). This committee being proposed to provide long planning horizon and visibility on capital needs and the related funding requirements for the Town. This committee would also expand public participation in the capital planning and approval process.

Chris then showed the CPC a proposed amendment and noted that the LTCPC is not in favor of the amendment. Anne Marie Mahoney, current chair of the CBC, added that what is being requested in the amendment is part of the current process already completed by department heads before bringing the asks to the committee. Anne Marie agreed with a statement that Chris had made previously that putting this in the bylaws would increase Belmont's liability. Elizabeth noted that she is also not in favor of the amendment and that this should be written into the procedures of the committee rather than in a bylaw. Roy Epstein spoke to the imprecise language of the bylaw, stating that it is too vague and leaves the work of the committee open to many challenges.

Stephen moved to recommend unfavorable action on the McGaw amendment. Seconded by Roy. The motion was approved unanimously: 9 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

David moved to recommend favorable action on warrant Article 3 to amend the bylaw, without regard to the Select Board designee. Seconded by Margaret. The motion was approved unanimously: 9 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

- b. Elizabeth then moved onto have a discussion of Article 12: Citizen Petition: Amend General Bylaw: 40-115, Encouraging Public Participation. Elizabeth read the motion aloud to the committee. Elizabeth stated that she always supports public input, but, as

an attorney, she is troubled by the Article's imprecise phrasing and potential for liability of volunteer committee members. Stephen then discussed his point of view as the Planning Board chair. He noted that the Planning Board does take public input, and he believes that as Chair this would make his position more difficult. Juliet Jenkins added this may be born out of those who are not as plugged into Town actions. David agreed with Stephen's point, but also stated that at some point there is only so much work that a committee can do to inform the public and make sure that every stakeholder gets a say. He agrees with the overall point of the Citizen's Petition and that it is always what the committee wants to do, but he disagrees with bringing it forward as a bylaw. Elizabeth said that for a lot of committee chairs there is not more that they can realistically do to get public input beyond current compliance with open meeting laws (including posted agendas and minutes and already allowing public access to all meetings). Elizabeth, Roy, and Juliet discussed increasing effective communication, because the information is already available under open meeting laws, but some members of the public are not reading or finding it.

Stephen moved to recommend unfavorable action. Seconded by Gloria. The motion was approved unanimously: 9 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

II) Discussion and Possible Vote for Funding of an Inventory/Condition Study for Historic Town Buildings

Michael moved to allow the expenditure of up to \$20,000 in Administrative Funds for the use of beginning a conditions study for all historic town-owned buildings; with the knowledge that these studies will start with the Benton Library. David seconded. The motion was approved unanimously: 9 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

III) Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. January 12, 2022
- b. February 9, 2022
- c. March 9, 2022

Michael moved to approve the January 12, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by Margaret. The motion was approved: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention (David).

Michael moved to approve the February 9, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by Margaret. The motion was approved: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Abstentions (Michael and Gloria).

Michael moved to approve the March 9, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by Margaret. The motion was approved: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention (Juliet).

IV) Approve Invoices

David moved to approve payment for 49.75 hours for the administrative coordinator. Seconded by Stephen. The motion was approved: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention (Roy).

V) Review and Approve CPC Report to Annual Town Meeting

VI) Other Business

- Updates from Liaisons: Historic District Commission:
 - Approved demolition delay bylaw. The Select Board has appointed them a new alternate member. The Library Trustee chair and Library Building Committee chair, and the Library Director met to discuss applying for CPC funding in FY24.
- Updates from Liaisons: Warrant Committee
 - Eight applications had unanimous consent for recommending favorable action with only one abstention and no opposition on the Town Clock application (the 9th project).
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - Activitas will present findings from their recreation assets study at the May Meeting: David said they will also be attending the next Recreation Committee meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:43PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Haskell