

Minutes of the August 6, 2021 meeting of a subcommittee to discuss possible application for Community Preservation Act (CPA) grants.

Attending:

Hillary H. Rayport

Mickey Rowland

Georgia Raysman

Holly Backus

Ken Beaugrand

Ken gave an overview of CPA Funding – it comes from two sources – surcharge on RE bill and matching grant from state.

Must be allocated to

10% open space

10% historic resources

10% to community housing

5% administration

65% is determined by the committee to make recommendations to town meeting for approval based on applications that are received.

If there aren't sufficient recommendations to award up to 10% of open space, so funds are put into reserves so they can be awarded later. Might go two or three years where have nothing for open space. So will build up reserves and can apply them to a larger grant.

100% of recommendations must go to town for approval

HP: CPC is not allowed to provide funding for things which are the responsibility for the town itself. For instance, the Town must look after cobblestones

But, development of planning for approving something that may be a town responsibility – that's something we have done and may look at.

As the NHC is part of the Town, we don't have to deal with reimbursement – we can apply that it is appropriate and request disbursement to fund work as it is done.

Generally get requests that are 3-5x greater than funds available. Have public hearings in the fall. Last year had fewer requests than funds

In 20 years only one project denied at town meeting (snow making machine)

The group came up with the following ideas:

- 1) Ongoing funding of surveys of historic structure. The matching portion of the MHC grant. Holly said it is a positive for MHC grants if Nantucket shows local taxpayers are supporting survey grants. Hillary observed that the 2021-2022 PLUS budget included \$50,000 for historic building surveys and this is what was used to fund the MHC grant.

The town has shown a willingness to fund information and research for the HDC and NHC in the past and we should encourage the continuation of this. Concern that CPA funds be available for projects the Town is not willing or able to fund out of free cash flow.

- 2) Lighthouses – Brant Point light is in need of restoration. Coast Guard not taking care of it and deprioritized care of the structure (only interested in care of the navigational light). Great Point light house is a reconstruction and is less than 50 years old. But in the same situation. A plan for restoration of the lighthouses? Could be open space and preservation?
- 3) Main Street sidewalk restoration – an important and very historic, and very dilapidated sidewalk that requires restoration. Much more than simply municipal repair. Fund a study to figure out details of the restoration, so the town can get on with actual repair in a way consistent with preservation. Could be open space and preservation? Would need to find an approach compatible with CPA guidelines.
- 4) Plant Materials – guidelines for Landscapes with Nantucket in mind?
- 5) Reuse / salvage of business plan

Next steps: brief NHC at August meeting, get consensus on best project. Continue to liaise with Holly and Ken about this. GRANTS DUE SEPT 10.
Review past projects at CPC office for ideas and help.