

Community Preservation Act Committee
Minutes of the meeting of March 5th, 2020
Amherst Town Hall, Town Room

Attending

Robin Fordham (HC), Sam MacLeod (AL), Michael Birtwistle (PB), Nate Budington (chair, AL), Diana Stein (AL), Sarah Marshall (LSSE), Dave Williams (AHA).

Absent

Fletcher Clark (CC), Sarah Eisinger (AL)

Others present

Anthony Delaney (staff)

The meeting was called to order by Nate Budington at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting of Feb. 20, 2020 were reviewed and amended. Birtwistle moved to accept the minutes and MacLeod seconded. The committee voted 7-0 to accept the minutes as amended.

Public Comment

Matt Blumenfeld speaking in support of the Jones Library Project. Highlights 2 points for the board.

- 1) The Jones Library is a separate 501-C building, not a town building.
- 2) In the latest rendering of plans from the architects, the Special Collections space will be entirely within the original historic building.

Copies of the floor plan were provided to the committee. Some further comments from Matt regarding the preservation aspect of the project. Additional commentary from the committee.

Q. Sarah M. Were the plan changes driven by the recent discussion of eligibility?

A. Matt B. I don't believe so. The square footage of the new Special Collections floor plan is similar to that of the original layout.

Q. Diana S. Are the anticipated costs with the new plan the same as the original plan?

A. Matt B. I believe they will be similar.

Q. Michael B. What is the difference that climate controls provide for the Special Collections verses compared space without controls.

A. Matt B. The Climate control keeps the humidity in a narrow range protecting against damage.

Additional general discussion of the new floor plan layout.

Comment. Robin F.

1) The Historical Commission prefers that as much of the award as possible will go towards systems.

2) It does not seem to be of significance whether the proposed work related to Special Collections is in the Original building or not.

Q. Robin F. Can you delineate some of the aspects of the project separate from the location space that are related to Special Collections preservation?

A. Austin Sarat. Climate Control, Fire Suppression, Security, Storage capacity

Q. Sarah M. Can you clarify regarding the Library not being a Municipal Building?

A. Austin S. It is owned by Jones Library Inc.

Comment Nate B. We are having today's discussion due to recent information and issues related to whether or not the project qualifies as a Historical Preservation Project.

The committee discussed the letters from Stuart Saginor of the Community Preservation Coalition, and the Town of Amherst's legal counsel.

Diana S. Indicated that she spoke to staff from the Mass Department of Revenue who stated that the library project definitely does not qualify for CPA funds under the category of Historic Preservation. A written summary was provided.

The committee discussed the contrary opinions and issues further. Multiple members of the committee wished to receive more clarification of the Mass D.O.R opinion. It was decided that the committee would not take a vote at this time on forwarding the existing CPAC Annual Report to the Town Council. Instead the Committee Chairman will contact the Town Manager to arrange for a further discussion (without a Quorum) with the Mass DOR to gain more clarity. A tentative CPA meeting was scheduled for 3-12-20 dependent upon the Mass DOR meeting having occurred.

Anthony D. presented the CPA Financial report and some discussion occurred.

Sam M. presented an update of the CPA Outreach Group followed by a brief discussion.

Robin F. presented the draft process of the CPA project reporting requirements followed by some discussion.

Motion to adjourn by Robin F. Seconded by Sam M. Vote was 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Sam MacLeod