

MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2007
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT STUDY COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE ROOM 4
TOWN HALL
7:30PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Community Preservation Act Study Committee was called to order in open session at 7:33 PM. Members present were Adam Dash, John Dieckmann, Peter Gunness, Caroline Huang, Delores Keefe, Mark Paolillo, and Ann Verrilli. Absent were members Joseph Scali and David Webster. Also present was Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

In the absence of a chair, Mr. Conti began the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves and talking about how the Committee will function, as well as reminding members about the requirements of the Open Meeting Law.

III. ORGANIZATION

1. Election of Chair

The Committee nominated Adam Dash for Chair. The nomination was seconded and the Committee unanimously (7-0) voted Adam Dash as its Chair. Mr. Conti turned the meeting over to Chair Dash.

The Committee nominated John Dieckmann for Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded and the Committee unanimously (7-0) voted John Dieckmann as its Vice Chair.

2. Designation of Secretary

The Committee decided not to appoint a Secretary at this time. Mr. Conti continued to take the minutes for the meeting.

3. Final Report timing

The Committee discussed the timing of when to make its final report to the Selectmen. It was noted that the Committee's charge is for a 6 month time frame which would point to a report sometime in May. Members agreed that it would be preferable to report to the Selectmen in advance of the April Town Meeting (scheduled for April 28) and will work toward that goal.

4. Schedule of meetings

The Committee decided to try to meet roughly every two weeks and set its next two meetings for Tuesday, November 27 and Tuesday, December 11, both at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall.

IV. SUGGESTED SUBGROUPS

The Committee discussed how best to proceed and what topics it wished to cover at its meetings. Chair Dash, Vice Chair Dieckmann and other members presented information about the CPA law, its history, how it works and the status of its adoption in other communities. Mr. Conti said he would send members a link to the text of the law (Chapter 44B) online.

Possible Projects

Ms. Verilli, Mr. Gunness, Ms. Huang, and Mr. Conti agreed to assemble lists of possible projects in Town that might qualify for funding if Belmont were to adopt the CPA.

Administrative Needs

It was clarified that under the CPA law up to 5% of the CPA funds may be used for administration of the program. Grants and gifts may also be made for this purpose.

Financial Impact

Mr. Paolillo agreed to work on a detailed study of the potential financial impact of adopting the CPA in the context of the Town's current financial environment.

Other Towns' Experiences

Members agreed that it would be helpful to hear directly from other Towns about their experiences with the CPA – both from Towns that have adopted it and Towns that rejected it. Members also suggested inviting groups such as the Revenue Department's Division of Local Services, MassRealtors, and Citizens for Limited Taxation.

Overall, the Committee felt that its recommendation should touch on these areas and ultimately make a recommendation about whether or not to adopt the CPA, and further if adopted whether to incorporate a low income exemption and/or a \$100,000 tax floor as provided in the law as other communities have done.

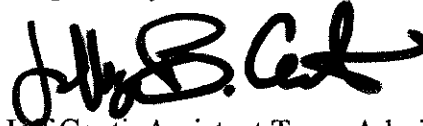
V. OTHER BUSINESS

It was clarified during discussion that towns are not required to spend all the money raised under the CPA during that year, but are required to spend some of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

(Minutes approved by unanimous vote of the Committee, 11/27/07)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff B. Conti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jeff Conti, Assistant Town Administrator