

**Canton Community Preservation Committee**

**Minutes of meeting – June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**In Attendance: John McSweeney, George Comeau, Melissa Mayer, Tom Theodore, David Ermhardt, John Leonetti, and Alison Grossman (via zoom)**

**Absent: Kendall O’Halloran, Kathy McCormack**

**Paul Revere Heritage Site, Copper Mill Hall (4 Rolling Mill Way)**

Chairman John McSweeney opened the meeting at 7:13pm.

Administrator Allison Neff reviewed a power point presentation about the Community Preservation Plan. It included what the Plan is and what input has been received from various town committees regarding changes they’d like to see reflected in the newest version of the Plan. This presentation will be available on the town CPA website in the coming weeks.

Mike Norse of 3 Draper Street shared that he is a member of the Canton Historical Commission and was involved in the establishment of the CPA in Canton. He shared that he feels the projects the CPA has funded have changed the town for the better and will continue to do so, and praised the CPA for being a source of funds for many historical projects who have no other sources of funding. He would like to see continued support for historical projects and he feels there are a lot more potential projects and places that are in need of CPA funding and support. Mr. Norse and George Comeau shared the Historical Commission’s priorities for the Plan, which are: research into indigenous sites, and the preservation of textiles, waterways, mills, etc. Debbie Stein Sharpe of 15 Historical Way is the chair of the Canton Walk, Bike, Hike Committee. She noted that many of their goals and priorities overlap with those of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and that should be a source used when setting goal in the next Preservation Plan.

Alexandra McCarty of 61 Leonard Street shared that she had seen an article in the Boston Globe about some towns in MA who were not using CPA funds for housing appropriately, and asked for some information on how the Canton CPA funds are spent on housing. Various members of the committee answered and explained. Ms. McCarty went on to note that “increased access t waterways” is one of the listed goals; she lives on a pond and wanted to know if there was a specific list of bodies of water being considered for CPA projects and asked about how decisions were made on which projects to fund. Various Committee members responded and stated that it is a public and open process where there will be advance notice of projects being considered and public meetings about projects applying for funding.

Karen Murphy of 168 Neponset Street asked how the expenditure of CPA funds in Canton is balanced, and shared her concern that not enough funds go to housing. Various committee members addressed her comments and Administrator Neff shared a pie chart showing the CPA expenditures by category (attached).

John Leonetti brought up the absence of the results from the public outreach done in Spring 2022 on the power point, and Administrator Neff confirmed it was an oversight and would be added to the slides. Mr. Comeau recommends the new Plan has a section specifically for the reports from the Spring 2022 outreach and Ms. Goldson’s executive summaries of the results included as appendices. Mr. Leonetti agreed and also suggested including the chart about expenditures and the debt service information be included in the Plan and/or appendices.

Mr. Leonetti nominated John McSweeney to continue as Committee Chair. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Comeau and passed 7-0-0.

Mr. McSweeney nominated George Comeau as Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Melissa Mayer and passed 7-0-0.

Tom Theodore nominate Dave Ermhardt as Treasurer. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Mayer and passed 7-0-0.

Mr. Comeau nominated Alison Grossman as Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Mayer and passed 7-0-0.

Vice-Chair Comeau motioned to accept the minutes of the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 CCPC meeting as written. The motion as seconded by Ms. Mayer and passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Ermhardt abstained).

The April financial reports were reviewed (May reports are not yet available). Vice-Chair Comeau, speaking on behalf of the Building and Renovation Committee, noted that the bathrooms at the Kennedy School fields (which remain an open CPA project) will be signed for shortly and the project is progressing.

Vice-Chair Comeau nominated Melissa Mayer as the CCPC representative to the Housing Trust. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Leonetti and passed 7-0-0.

Chairman McSweeney shared an update from Andrea Capone about the Library Reading Garden Design project – it is moving forward but will not be complete by the end of the fiscal year and she is requesting an extension. The extension will be voted on at the next CCPC meeting. Chairman McSweeney confirmed to the committee and the administrator that the funding amount requested on a pre-application can be an estimate – final numbers aren't needed until the full application is submitted.

A schedule was set for CCPC meetings for the remainder of the calendar year. It will be posted on the CCPC website shortly. All meetings will take place on Mondays at 7pm in Copper Mill Hall at the Paul Revere Heritage Site (though this is subject to change and location/timing will be confirmed on each agenda). There will be no July meeting.

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

October 2, 2023

\*November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

\*November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

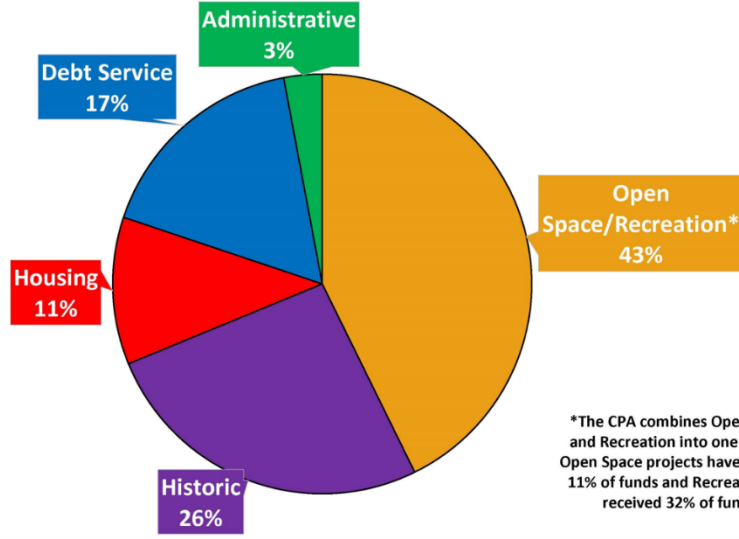
\*December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

\*December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*\*These meetings will include the public hearings on projects requesting funding for FY25 (voted on in May 2024)*

Vice-Chair Comeau motioned to end the meeting at 8:30pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mayer and passed 7-0-0.

**Canton CPA Expenditures by “Bucket”**  
**FY2014-2023**



\*The CPA combines Open Space and Recreation into one bucket. Open Space projects have received 11% of funds and Recreation has received 32% of funds.