



MEETING MINUTES

Town of Acton of Acton Community Preservation Committee

November 29, 2007
Acton Memorial Library

Attending: Corrina Roman-Kreuze, Tory Beyer, Nancy Tavernier, Ron Schlegel, Ed Starzec, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Andy Magee, Walter Foster, Kristin Alexander (Planning Department), Anne Forbes (HDC Observer) and Steve Noone (FinCom Observer).

Ken Sghia-Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:40PM.

Project application presentations were made by the West Acton Citizens' Library and Theatre III. A presentation by the Conant School was rescheduled to December 13 due to Principal Christine Price's required attendance at a meeting of the Acton School Committee.

Jennifer Friedman, the new librarian at the West Acton Citizens' Library, made the presentation. The application seeks \$68,930 (up from the initial \$67,000 request) in CPA funding for the exterior restoration to the 1840's structure. The Citizen's Library is the oldest publicly owned building actively in use by the Town. The request to CPA will be augmented by \$12,500 in Library funds and in-kind services. The Committee suggested Ms. Friedman amend her request to include the cost for twenty one new wood exterior storm windows from the four requested to more fully complete the restoration. It is the opinion of Town Counsel the project application is eligible for funding under the "historic resources" section of the CPA.

Pamela Furnace made the presentation on behalf of Theatre III. (The group's legal name is Acton Community Center, Inc.) The application seeks \$40,000 in CPA funding for the restoration of the sixteen original windows in the former Universalist Church building at 250 Central Street in the historic district of West Acton. The building dates to 1868 and was acquired by Theatre III in the 1950's. The request to CPC will be augmented by \$4,300 from Theatre III, bringing the cost of the restoration to \$44,300. The Committee requested that Theatre III build in for contingency funding. Ms. Furnace noted her group "runs on a shoe string" and over the last three years has spent \$25,000 for

a new furnace, water heater and fire escape. Town Counsel found the project application is eligible for funding under the "historic resources" section of the CPA subject to two qualifications. It appears from the Town Counsel's review of on-line records at the Massachusetts Secretary of State the Acton Community Center, Inc. was a non-profit corporation, but involuntarily had its status revoked on April 4, 1984. Representatives of Theatre III agreed to immediately check into their corporate status as the revocation was something they were totally unaware of. The lack of non-profit status could affect their ability to receive funding. The second qualification goes to the group's willingness, as a recipient of public funds for a privately owned property, to place an historic preservation restriction on the property. A similar restriction was requested and given in exchange for CPA funding of two restoration requests from Jones Tavern.

The minutes of the CPC meeting of November 8, 2007 were approved, as amended.

The Committee approved a letter from Ken to Glen Berger of the Exchange Hall restoration project for additional project information required of applicant's under the 2008 Community Preservation Plan. This information is to be provided to the Committee 48 hours prior to his application presentation on Thursday, December 13. The Committee also added a second presentation date for Mr. Berger in January.

The Committee also approved a letter from Ken to the Massachusetts Highway Department in support of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail's enhancement application for 100% design funding.

The Committee expressed its very strong support for the Selectmen's salary parity proposal for Town employees.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 13 at 7:30PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40PM.

Jon Benson