

AS APPROVED: 3-21-16

**WEST BOYLSTON
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
January 14, 2016**

Members present: George Bernardin, Steve Blake, Cheryl Carlson, Pat Crowley, Bev Goodale, and Pat Halpin. Absent: Brenda Bowman, Charleen Hopkins, and Chris Rucho

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 24, 2015 meeting were approved as mailed.

ANNUAL REPORT: The annual report of the Committee for the fiscal year 2015 was approved as mailed. [A copy of the report is attached to the minutes of this meeting.]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Pat Crowley presented a letter that the Committee has received from Venable LLP, asking for information regard particular types of applications or grants made with Community Preservation Act funds. It was voted to authorize him to reply to the letter, after first sending a copy of the letter to George and reviewing a draft of his reply with him.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING: There was an extensive discussion about the nature and timing of the next informational meeting concerning the CPC for members of Town boards and committees. Pat Halpin agreed to contact people in Grafton to get information as to how they handle such meetings. After discussing information that the next Town Meeting will be held on May 16, 2016, it was decided to schedule the next CPC meeting for March 21, at 7:00 pm – at which time the Committee will conduct a public hearing about the Act and Pat Crowley will make the informational presentation. The Committee will ask Nancy Lucier to send out a notice regarding the hearing to Town Boards and Committees. George will prepare a draft of the notice for this meeting, and will have it reviewed by Pat Crowley before it is forwarded to Nancy for further action.

PARKS COMMISSION APPLICATION: Steve mentioned that the Parks Commission is working on an application for funding a new project and it was agreed that a hearing on the application will be held on the application at the March 21 meeting.

INVOICES: Patriot Fence Co., Inc. has submitted an invoice for \$26,130 for a Parks Commission project. George Bernardin and Pat Crowley signed the invoice and it was voted that it should be paid only after Steve Blake adds his signature. The Committee also voted to approve the annual Community Preservation Coalition dues bill of \$875.

There being no further business, it was voted to adjourn at 8:05 pm.

A true record:

George F. Bernardin, Secretary

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WEST BOYLSTON
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015**

THE Community Preservation Act (CPA) allows municipalities to voluntarily raise their tax rate by a surcharge of up to 3%. West Boylston has adopted the CPA with a 2% surcharge. This additional tax can only be used for Open Space and Recreation, Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing Projects. The state matches the tax levy up to 100% of the surcharge. In fiscal year 2015 West Boylston realized surcharge revenue (including penalties, interest and tax liens) of \$182,295. The state match was \$54, 129, which represents approximately 29.7% match of the FY 2014 surcharge.

The CPC recommended and the Town Meeting approved the following grant during the fiscal year 2015:

\$20,000 was appropriated from the affordable housing reserve to hire a community housing specialist consultant to assist with the administration of Chapter 40B projects.

\$7,500 was also appropriated from the Community Preservation annual revenues for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects, and other expenses in fiscal year 2016.

As of June 30, 2015, the CPC fund balances were as follows:

Reserved for expenditures:	\$95,765
Open Space	102,251
Historical	57,001
Housing	91,251
Undesignated	489,082

* * * * *

Community Preservation Committee:

George Bernardin, Stephen Blake, Brenda Bowman, Cheryl Carlson, Patrick Crowley,
Beverly Goodale, Patricia Halpin, Charleen Hopkins, and Christopher Rucho