

West Tisbury Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of January 10, 2024 Meeting

Via Zoom Technology

Approve January 24, 2024

Call to Order: 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present at Call to Order: Cheryl Lowe, John Christensen, Bea Phear, John Rau, and Jeffrey Dubard. Ernie Thomas joined the meeting at 5:40 pm.

Staff Present at Call to Order: Maura Valley, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2023 meeting: John Christensen moved, John Rau seconded and all voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented (Cheryl Lowe – yes, John Christensen – yes, Bea Phear – yes, John Rau – yes, Jeffrey Dubard – yes)

New Business:

1. Review of draft CPC Annual Report for 2023 Town Report

John Christensen moved, Bea Phear seconded and all voted in favor of accepting the draft annual report of the Community Preservation Committee as presented (Cheryl Lowe – yes, John Christensen – yes, Bea Phear – yes, John Rau – yes, Jeffrey Dubard – yes)

2. Review projects and make recommendations for FY2024 CPA funding

Cheryl Lowe recused herself from the funding discussion due to a personal connection to three of the applicants under consideration, turned the Chair over to Bea Phear and left the meeting. The committee then discussed potential funding of applications received, addressing the limited funding in relation to the requests received.

The Field Fund requested \$82,689 for replacing the pavement at the West Tisbury School playground with mulch. As this is the only request for funding under the Open Space/Recreation Reserve the committee felt the full amount should be recommended for funding.

MV Garden Club requested \$10,000 for Old Mill safety improvements. The committee was in favor of recommending approval of the full amount but did note that the Town should not be the first line of funding and that they should consider reaching out to their club for funding some of their projects.

Island Housing Trust (IHT) requested \$1,056,480 for 401 State Road 60+ community housing. The committee fully supports this project but due to limited funding availability recommends

approval of \$800,000 with the understanding that this project will be prioritized for additional funding next year.

Island Housing Trust (IHT) requested \$70,600 for Veterans' supportive housing in Oak Bluffs. The committee recommends approval of \$70,000 for this project.

Island Housing Trust (IHT) requested \$798,840 for 48 Old Courthouse Road school employee housing. No allocation was recommended.

Dukes County Regional Housing Association (DCRHA) rental assistance program requested \$50,000. The committee recommends approval of the full amount requested.

Harbor Homes MV requested \$80,000 for construction of a homeless shelter and housing facility for families with children. As the original project in Oak Bluffs fell through the committee did not support allocating additional funds at this time. The committee did however ask that a warrant article be drafted to amend article 32 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting to change the approved use of \$80,000 appropriated for a women's shelter to allow the funding to be used for any homeless shelter.

Island Autism Center requested \$143,900 for the community housing portion of their project. The committee recommends approval of \$104,081, the balance of the Community Housing Reserve.

MV Preservation Trust requested \$150,000 for Grange Hall foundation repairs. The committee recommends approval of \$60,000 for the project, which is the balance of the Historic Resources Reserve after funding the Garden Club request.

Habitat for Humanity requested \$396,000 for their Red Arrow Road home. Funding availability from Habitat's national organization was questioned but, according to Greg Orcutt, the local organization does not receive any funding from the national organization. Concerns were also raised regarding the high cost for a single dwelling unit but the consensus was that the project was beneficial and should be funded. The committee recommends approval of \$340,000 for the project.

After discussion of the projects submitted John Rau motioned, Ernie Thomas seconded and it was unanimously voted (John Christensen – yes, Bea Phear – yes, John Rau – yes, Jeffrey Dubard – yes, Ernie Thomas - yes) to submit warrant articles recommending funding as follows:

The Field Fund	\$82,689 from the Open Space – Recreation Reserve
MV Garden Club	\$10,000 from the Historic Resources Reserve
IHT (401 State Rd 60+community)	\$800,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Fund Balance with the understanding that additional funding would be prioritized for next year

IHT (Veterans' supportive housing)	\$70,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Fund Balance
DCRHA rental assistance program	\$50,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Fund Balance
Island Autism Center	\$104,081 from the Community Housing Reserve
MV Preservation Trust	\$60,000 from the Historic Resources Reserve
Habitat for Humanity	\$340,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Fund Balance

An article will also be submitted to amend article 32 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting to change the approved use of \$80,000 appropriated for a women's shelter to allow the funding to be used for any homeless shelter.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss John Christensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 PM, seconded by John Rau and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Valley
Administrative Assistant