

**Braintree Community Preservation Committee**  
Minutes

August 10, 2009  
Thayer Public Library

Present: Anne Murphy (Chair) Mike Dorn  
Linda Raiss (V-Chair) Pat Flynn  
John Dennehy Darryl Mikami

Absent: Dick Fletcher  
Also present: Christine Stickney, Director of Planning & Community Development

Meeting convened at 6:35 PM

Administrative:

Mike Dorn **MOTION** to table minutes to a future date seconded by John Dennehy – unanimously voted.

**Fall Schedule:** Members agreed to meet once a month through the fall and schedule the following dates:

September 14, 2009 (previously scheduled) 7:30PM – Thayer Library  
October 19, 2009 (7:30PM) Thayer Library  
November 16, 2009 (7:30PM) Thayer Library  
December 14, 2009 (7:30PM) Thayer Library

**Status of Web Page:** Christine Stickney reported that she has requested of the Mayor's office that certain materials be added to the CPC page but to date these items have not been added. John Dennehy noted that we should posted pictures of past projects on the CPC site – members agreed. Anne Murphy will contact Peter Morin as to why items are not getting on to the website.

**CPC Ordinance:** Christine Stickney reported that a draft ordinance had been sent in May to the City Solicitor. She and Carolyn Murray are meeting this coming Friday (8/14) to go over the matter. Members asked if this individual ordinance can go forward on its own without having to wait for other ordinances from the Transition Committee. Christine expressed her opinion it should be able to go forward but she will confirm with Carolyn on Friday. Anne Murphy stressed this is important matter that needs immediate attention to assure there is no discrepancy on the committee's standing.

**Press Release:** A draft press release has not yet been drafted by staff primarily because of the website issue and the on-going efforts to clarify the Committee's finances. Anne Murphy expressed her concern the public is not aware that we exist and that there is no a process available for applications to be received. The deadline for the first round is September 1<sup>st</sup> and members discussed moving it back. However, after some discussion it

was agreed to keep with 9/1. Linda Raiss noted that public outreach was a matter that the previous CPC also wrestled with and more needs to be done. John Dennehy suggested that the CPC consider going on cable to help get the message out.

**DOR Reporting:** Christine Stickney informed members there is a 9/15/09 deadline for the annual project update report to DOR in order to be in compliance with the October disbursement. Kelly Phelan in Christine's office will do the on-line report prior to the deadline.

Draft Financial Spreadsheets:

Dick Fletcher has developed a spreadsheet template for the Committee's finances and Linda Raiss is filling in the information required for each fiscal year [appropriations, projects and close-outs] dating back to FY2003. Members were emailed the sheets and asked for their comments. Anne Murphy noted this was much easier to read and understand. Linda pointed out that not all of the data is available and confirmed. Linda did describe to the CPC an on-going problem of numbers not matching and that Ed Spellman recommended the CPC go with the DOR figures. In one instance there is a discrepancy of \$40,000. Linda and Dick are hopeful when all the data in input that the end figures will match up with the Finance Director's. Members agreed to wait and review again at next meeting.

Darryl Mikami again voiced his concern that these funds are not in a separate account outside of the general accounting. He found it interesting that other Towns do not have separate accounts. John Dennehy concurred and stated his concern as a CPC member the fiduciary accountability. After some discussion it was agreed to ask Ed Spellman to attend the next CPA meeting – 9/14/09 to discuss the issue. Darryl also asked that staff consult with Stuart Saginor if there is a statutory reason that these cannot be separate accounts - Linda Raiss will contact Stuart.

**Strategic Report:** Members were given a copy of a "Strategic Plan" prepared for the former CPC in March of 2007. Staff felt this should be looked at and discussed at one of the upcoming meetings as to a plan the CPC wants to follow in their proceedings. Members discussed various items including open space acquisitions, conservation restrictions on particular lands in the Town and if an agricultural use could be established. John Dennehy asked if a parcel of land either under Town control or to be purchased with CPC funds could be then dedicated to a community garden. Linda Raiss felt that the CPC should not be the originator of projects, but rather a "clearinghouse" and suggested that the new organization Sustainable Braintree might be contacted to see if they were interested in pursuing this idea. Michael Dorn asked if staff could investigate if CPC funds could be used in such a manner relative to an agricultural use. Christine Stickney reported that the Town has recently submitted a P.A.R.C grant for a small pocket park on Water Street. She had learned from a recent court case that converting land previously used for other purposes could be considered CPA-eligible; however she has asked the City Solicitor for an opinion relative to the case.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

Submitted by Christine Stickney