

TOWN OF WINCHENDON

Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee

109 Front Street, Dept. 1, Winchendon, MA 01475-1758

Telephone (978) 297-0085 Fax: (978) 297-1616

Board of Selectmen
Winchendon Town Hall
109 Front Street
Winchendon, MA 01475

February 10th, 2023

Re: Community Preservation Act Bylaw Expectations and Request for Commitment

Board Members,

Our January 30th, 2023 Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee meeting included a thorough discussion regarding process. We were joined by Stuart Saginor, Executive Director of the Community Preservation Coalition, who walked us through some of the finer points of CPA implementation. Should this be something the people of Winchendon expresses interest in pursuing, the CPAEC wanted to ensure we were clear and up front in communicating expectations. From a process perspective, the following schedule should provide a realistic outline of our next steps:

March 13th, 2023

Special Town Meeting Vote (requiring Majority Vote)

May 1st, 2023

If STM is affirmative, ballot vote to be taken at the Annual Town Elections (requiring Majority Vote)

May 15th, 2023

If May 1st ballot vote successful, vote on Community Preservation Act Town Bylaw establishing guidelines for a local Community Preservation Coalition. (If ballot fails, the article is passed over)

In our meetings, the CPAEC has committed to cultivating a local CPA system that is functionally separate from typical Town operations. As such, we are respectfully asking the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager to sign on to this Letter of Intent. This would signify support for the following recommendations for a Community Preservation Act Town Bylaw should such an effort meet muster at the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election.

1. The Committee would consist of 9 members broken down as follows:
 - A. 5 Seats as established by MA General Law.
 - i. Conservation Commission Appointment
 - ii. Planning Board Appointment
 - iii. Historic Commission Appointment
 - iv. Housing Authority Appointment
 - v. Recreation Commission Appointment
 - B. 4 Seats elected citizens at large with staggered 3 year terms. No appointments will be made by the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, or other entity.

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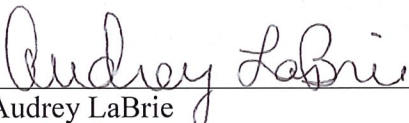
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2. Should an appointed member from section A resign, they are to be re-appointed by their respective appointing authorities.
3. Should an elected member from section B resign, the remainder of their term shall be filled by a member of the community to be appointed by a combined majority vote of the remaining Community Preservation Commission body and Board of Selectmen in a joint meeting.
4. No funds will be spent in the first year of implementation. These funds will be allowed to accumulate. Every year thereafter a minimum of 5% of the fund shall remain untouched.
5. Borrowing of CPA funds will not be permitted for any project. Future year funds may not be committed to future year projects. Projects will not be approved unless funds are available.
6. 5% of total funds will be budgeted annually for Administrative oversight (as permitted by MA General Law). Unused funds will be returned to the CPA balance annually.

The CPAEC feels that a commitment to these core ideals would help build public trust and confidence in a Winchendon Community Preservation Coalition. We understand that all members of the Board of Selectmen may not necessarily support the implementation of the CPA in Winchendon – and as such we ask for an understanding that voting in support of these guidelines does not equal a vote in support of the CPA. We are respectfully requesting that the Board of Selectmen put forth a vote to authorize the Chair of the Board to sign on to a letter support along with the Town Manager affirming this support. Should the CPAEC change direction on any of these components, notice will be respectfully provided to the Board of Selectmen accompanied by an opportunity to re-vote their position.

Regards,

David Romanowski
CPAEC Chair



Audrey LaBrie
Chair of the Board of Selectmen



Justin Sultzbach
Town Manager