



Community Preservation Committee

Regular

~ Minutes ~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Kathy Calvanese

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

6:00 PM

Utilizing Remote Collaboration Technology

I. Call to Order

6:00 PM Meeting called to order on April 5, 2022 at Utilizing Remote Collaboration Technology, (Online), Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
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II. Public Portion

Springfield Community Preservation Committee

Remote Meeting Agenda

April 5th, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19, pandemic; as it relates to the Open Meeting Law requirement, the Springfield Community Preservation Committee will continue to meet remotely until further notice. Meetings are held at 6.00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. The minutes and the agenda for all meetings are available on the Meeting Portal of the City website.

Meetings are recorded and available on the committee Facebook page: <http://fb.me/SpringfieldCommunityPreservationCommittee> to join a remote meeting, telephone: 413-530-1268 by 4:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting. Send written public comments to: Springfield Community Preservation Committee, City Hall, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA, 01103 or e-mail cpc@springfieldcityhall.com

Present:

Robert McCarroll - Chair - (Springfield Preservation Trust), Gloria DeFillipo - (Planning Board) - Juanita Martinez - (Conservation Commission) - Clinton Harris - (Park Board) - Willie Thomas - (Housing Authority) - Rhonda Sherill - (Neighborhood Representative) - Judith Crowell - (Historical Commission Representative) **Not Present-** Ralph Slate - (Neighborhood Rep)

Agenda

Application interviews:

Marshall Roy Park Improvements, Marshall Roy Park Fitness

Merritt Park Improvements

Venture Pond Phase Two

Godfrey Triangle Restoration - Phase two

Myrtle Street Park Improvements

Hennessy Park Revitalization

Bay Path Cemetery Improvements,

Approve Minutes of March 1

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Project Contract Extension Requests: 174-184 Maple Street

Historic Homes Program

Administrator's Updates

Other Matters

Next Meeting- April 26th

Robert welcomed everyone to the fifth year of CPA funding. In the past four years CPA has helped with more than six million dollars worth of projects for Community Housing, Open Space and Recreation and Historic Resources and money that we wouldn't otherwise have. The CPA in Springfield is administered by a nine person committee. As we begin this process we have twenty-five proposals that are asking for about four and a half million dollars. We have about half that amount that we can recommend to the City Council. Applicants will be given a five minute timed presentation. Gloria DeFillipo has volunteered and she will give you one minute notice and then a thirty second notice and then time out followed by questions from the Committee. After we meet with everyone we will begin our deliberations probably in June and July and prepare recommendations to the City Council in September. If the City Council approves funding, contracts will be prepared. So the timeline is most likely not a project for this calendar year.

We begin with Marshall Roy Park Improvements.

Marshall Roy Improvement Project: To the CBC Committee, we want to thank you for the extended community service in doing this project. I'm Kathy Brown, East Springfield Neighborhood Council and I am really happy to come to you tonight to ask you to re-support a project that you supported last year. The Marshall Roy Walking Path is very well approved by the community. Unfortunately we are here because the original funding we had applied for has proven to not be sufficient. Between the Pandemic and some additional design requirements we find ourselves asking you to see our enthusiasm. The neighborhood is extremely excited about this half a mile path around Marshall Roy Field. For many years the people in the community have said we need a place to walk. We don't want to trip over sidewalks but we would like a spot where we can walk through the park. We have put that down as a proposal. The architect that took a look at the project realized that the funding wasn't sufficient. We are hoping that through this project you will realize that the community has a strong support. That being said, we are looking for an additional \$120,000 to bring this project to completion. We are here to ask for your support of this project. She then asked Chris Seabrooks if he had anything to say about it? Chris responded by stating that when we met with GZA who is the designer on this project we did not foresee where there was going to be a problem on the upper left hand of the backstop. We would have to take down trees and it is already a tight spot. Rather than do any of that and create enough space and also to allow Pottinger to really utilize the path we thought it would be wise to go around the fence then place some of that as well. That is something that we have seen as an unforeseen challenge. When you get on site you recognize that there are things that don't necessarily show up in quotes, that initially try to figure out these projects' cost. We really wanted to do it the right way. I am happy to answer any questions.

Robert thanked Kathy and Chris. Robert asked if there were any committee members that have questions? This is Judy and I'm new and I am looking at the application. What was the initial amount that you got? Kathy stated that the amount was \$101,550. At that point that seemed to map out appropriately, but as Chris said it didn't map out appropriately but with different check holds. I see the walking path of \$101,550. GZA design \$12,500 and \$890.50 left? Kathy then stated that it was correct. You need another \$120 to add to the \$890.50? Kathy agreed that it is correct. Robert then asked, is the path now partially going on school department property? The answer was "no", it is all park property. Robert then stated that you mentioned the Pottenger Fence so I didn't know if it was a Park Department fence near Pottinger School. Chris stated that it is allowed for recess, so yes it is on park property. Robert then asked, are there any further questions. Seeing no hands up we will then go to the next phase.

Marshall Roy Park Fitness

Kathy Brown stated that she would like to introduce Marie Koski. She is on our team here and she is here with me. Marie then stated that she is on the East Springfield Board and this project on the fitness stations at the park really came from Dennis Mass on a walking path that had these fitness stations and we were so taken with them that we pursued information about it. So anyhow the request for acquisition and installation of these stations at Marshall Roy Field. The plan would hopefully station them in various sections of the walking path if possible. Or a more appropriate area close to the parking lot. This project falls into the recreation and Open Space CPC category. It will include design, site preparation and installation of quality fitness equipment in our very popular park. It will strengthen our neighborhood park and the intention is to create safe and fitness amenities in our park. The budget requested is \$68,515. It is a stand alone project. We are looking at eight free standing fitness stations. If you have the packet in

front of you towards the back you will see pictures of the aid stations, a number of them allow for wheelchair accessibility and handicap accessibility. All the stations are recommended for people ages thirteen and older which is a good percentage of our population. My personal experience when I saw this equipment is that some of it looks difficult and you can start as easily as you want. This would help you with your muscle mass. Between the eight stations we work on upper body, lower body, abs, and you can name it and it is there. This is a heavily used park and right now it is heavily used by sports teams. This would allow more for our older population to come out and enjoy the park also and work on strengthening their muscles. Chris stated it does seem to be a great project and I will be excited to see what anybody else has to say. Robert stated that he saw Lamar Cook and asked him if he had any questions. Lamar stated that he also felt that this is a great project. Lamar's concern is the budget. How involved is the Park Department with this budget? Kathy then stated that we are going on prices provided to us by the manufacturer and the company that sells and installs the equipment. There are estimated prices. Most of the equipment is under \$10,000 installed. Of course the price for each one is listed in the packet. As far as we know it is a reasonable price to our knowledge. We took our missed step with the last project under consideration when we were taking a look at what we were looking for here. There is also that ten percent additional piece in that budget as Marie indicated. We are pleased with the contractor because they gave us separate prices for the equipment and they gave us what we had anticipated what the installation would be and it seems more than consistent with the cost of installation. Robert then asked the question, so the installation cost is what the manufacturer thinks that it will cost to install, or that is what he will charge because he is doing the installation. That is what he believes that it will cost to install based on the amount of the materials and labor needed to install. Robert stated that his only concern is whether he is aware that we have Massachusetts prevailing wage. Therefore, I would ask that you double check with the park folk that they feel it is an online estimate. I see that Rhonda has her hand up. Robert asked her if she had a question? Rhonda stated that she just wanted to ask a question. I see that you only

want eight apparatices is that correct? They stated that it was correct. Rhonda then asked who is going to keep up this equipment? The equipment is similar to the equipment that you see in the various playgrounds that are around. It is pretty much self sustaining. We are here in the neighborhood of our office that abuts the park so we can keep an eye on it but basically it is the same type of material that we see in the playgrounds. I just want to add to Bob that the company that we talked to is located in Massachusetts in the Eastern part of the state. They understand Massachusetts laws and it is my understanding that they have done work in Springfield. Chris may be able to address that. Rhonda then stated if it gets vandalized or anything, who pays for the replacement? It was then stated that the Park Department agreed to help upkeep this and if it does get vandalized the Neighborhood Council would provide whatever support that we can give them. We can't guarantee that we can take care of everything but we are committed to this park and we have been for many years. The Park Department has agreed to maintain it for us and we will assume ownership of it. Rhonda then stated that it was her concern and I would like to see it in other parks. Chris then stated that we do have other recreational equipment and play equipment as well. We are looking at this as a project that will allow us to take another step for Park Recreation. Lamar then asked the question, was the equipment in the park or was that installed by a third party or the Park Department itself. Chris stated that he would have to check on that

and I can definitely check on that. Lamar did suggest that you could get some prices so these ladies can compare notes. Chris responded by saying "absolutely." Patrick Sullivan suggested that you can go over with Cathy and her team to go over the pricing that Lamar put the equipment in that sample? Patrick then asked Cathy is it the Landscape Structures that is doing the exercise equipment? Cathy stated yes I do believe that is the name. Patrick stated that they do all of our playgrounds. Robert then stated that if you come to the conclusion that the installation costs need to be increased you will need to get it to us by the end of May. Gloria wanted to know if the Park Department knows this company and Patrick I think you just answered this question. Juanita asked, they don't install? Patrick then stated that they just sell. There is a landscaper and a vendor that does the install. Gloria asked, since the Park Department has several more parks now, how many additional employees are you going to hire to handle all the additional work? Patrick stated that they added four more this past year, and we put in a request that we have eight seasonals to be added to our budget going forth on July 1. Robert then stated that not seeing any other hands up from the Committee members. Robert thanked the East Springfield folks.

Merritt Park Improvements

Betsy Johnson stated that she was going to start because she has to go to another hearing. Carol Costa is going to wrap up and it's the Park Departments that will be part of the questions fine. Betsy began by stating she is currently the Civic Association. We are the downtown Neighborhood Council and this proposal is for their park at the corner of Chestnut Street and State Street. Immediately adjacent to the Central Library and the entryway to the corner of the Quadrangle by Christ Church. Currently, it is totally unusable. The area residents which include hundreds of families like the big sky-view tower not to mention Classical Condominiums and all the other close to three thousand residents who live in the mediat downtown area. Visitors trying to get to The Museums and come to the Library. Currently the passways are not ADA compliant, they are not well configured to really make it so folks want to go through the park. There are no benches or other amenities in the park. The main thing that the park does feature is the Puritan statue. Unfortunately, it has unsightfully decorative grasess which grow up and secure the park every summer. The picture that I included makes it look good that those grasses have been cut down for once. So what we are looking for is something that will encourage library patrons to like a space where they might even do programs outside. The other thing that I want to emphasize is the time now. Because across the street 195 State Street which is going to be redeveloped in two years will

have forty residential units. There is an addition of sixty residential units which will be built up the street at 10 State Street, the skyview tower is having sixteen million dollars that renovations will be put into it so this is the time to have the park. I just want to say that our neighborhood association has a track record of working with the Springfield Museums. There is a support letter from them that unfortunately came in after I submitted the hard copies but is in the electronic copy of the proposal because they along the culture partnership want to work with us so we can do the same kind of effort similar to what they did with Pynchon Plaza. Additional fundraising which can be used is to restore the sculpture and they may get other complementary artistic pieces in the park. With that, I am going to let Carol say a few things. Carol stated that this was a fabulous project and Patrick Sullivan knows that I am thinking about this park for a long time and I think Laura Walsh from the Parks Department and Betsy in the application of the Armory triangle Civic Association is a terrific proposal it is so underutilized and the fact that the statue is at the center of it. We are talking about great historical and educational opportunities for people walking through that park. Who was Samuel Chapin? Do they know that one of his descendants was John Brown and met with Fredrick Douglass. There is so much education that can be brought to visitors. With so many families moving into downtown we just need to make it accessible to families and their children, and have the opportunity to walk and sit leisurely and be enticed to go into the library and the rest of the Quadrangle and the Museums. It is a great project and it includes lighting. Safety is an issue and I am sure that first resource with Gordon Pulsifer who lives across the street will be very encouraged to look out for that property and to make sure it is safe and well used. Robert asked committee members if they had any questions? Juanita I am piggybacking what they said about the statue and what Carol and Betsy said. There is probably not a major museum in the United States that doesn't have a smaller version of not very big of that statue and each time it states that the largest one is in Springfield Massachusetts. There is even one in the British Museum in London and every time someone looks at that they see Springfield Massachusetts. So, it is a very important sculpture. Betsy then stated that the statue is in the center of the flag of Springfield, MA. It is also used as a logo in the Springfield School Department as well. Robert stated that because this park is in a national register district it will be imperative that if this gets funded whoever is the designer that's working on this really needs to be liaising with our preservation consultants to make sure that what you are proposing conforms to the Secretary Standards.

Venture Pond from Campus Neighbors

Chris stated that we are currently working on the Venture Pond Trail right now. We are doing any brushing that is necessary to clear the path. This project would really add to that and allow for people to really fish in the park and in this land. Laura then stated that this application that they gave to you is a continuation of the 2019 project that was on phase one to get the design for the trail all figured out and we will work from that. I know that Chris and Colleen are working out the implementation on phase one which is the trail. The application in front of you is for phase two which is to add additional benches, doing the permitting for the fishing platform, putting more signage and things like that to enhance the trail for visitors and from across the city and neighborhood what a treasure that they have at Venture Pond right in their backyard and the glacial pond. That is the continuation of this project and complete the project, it's our final phase and the community is looking for additional support for phase two. Colleen Moynahan stated that she was over at the pond today, this pond is not visible if you drive up Wilbraham Road, you go by it but there is a DPW fence that you can't see it. If you take right off Venture Drive hence your pond you will have the opportunity to find a gem. We have several geological five ponds all around the city. This has already begun to improve. All this neighborhood is looking for and today with the trail work done the vista that used to be there 20 something years ago. At that time we had swans, the red wing black birds, a blue heron, we had a number of frogs and peepers. It is a gem and we are going to have beautiful property that the city is already proud of. I can't say enough about the neighborhood. The neighbors are all behind it. The boy scouts have a badge that they can earn by helping

to support this and they have already agreed that they were going to do that. I think it is something that I invite all of you to see now and then you can see it when it is all done. Robert then asked if there are any questions from any Committee members? Robert stated that he had

a question. So on the seasonal dock is that something that the park department will install every spring and take out in every fall to store somewhere? Or is it a permanent facility that stays in so that it doesn't get iced damaged. Laura then stated that will come out of the design process. I'm looking at what would be supported best here. It would be one of our first fishing docks so we would be going through this from the beginning to see what works best for the area. Colleen stated that there is also a kayaking dock and as you know lakers are like golfers. They will go all year round. Gloria asked Robert is there going to be a trailhead kiosk? Colleen stated that there are three that I hope will be done. I would hope that there is information for young people, old people and all kinds of folks would enjoy knowing about them. We could have a similar orientation sign and another project we could use more of those around this wonderfully historic city called Springfield. Gloria asked Colleen what she meant by Kiosk because here it states one. Colleen replied by saying one Kiosk would probably have multiple forms of information. If there are smaller ones, the position around the trail loops around the pond so that they can have different signs of information based on the perspective that they are enjoying at that time. Laura then told Gloria that we have a few kiosks on other trails in the parks and we have some in Forest Park just to help people to know where they are and also Sargeant Sullivant Park which is another kayaking/canoe launch that we have on South Branch Park and provides a map. Some information about the areas and environmental information and things like that. It would be to scale the area and it is a way of finding and informational sharing. Gloria asked is it a building or is it just a plaque? Laura stated that it is like a trailhead sign, not a building it would be more like signage and it may have a little roof on it to be designed. At this time Robert asked if Laura could take a photo of where you have a similar kiosk and then a photograph of what you think interpretive signage. Is that something like what we designed for the riverwalk in your mind or something different. It would help us understand when you say kiosk what you're referring to versus what may be in our mind. Laura stated that like the signs to be consistent city wide and that can help to identify being in the park system. We do have some options that can be designed during the design process for this phase of the project. Robert stated in terms of the narrative it talks about a security camera system but that is not in the budget so which is it? Patrick stated that we use our trail cams now so we would probably use at this location and the Park Department would support three or four throughout the trail system at this location with our current budget. Robert stated that this is not a CPA request. Juanita said that there was a letter from the campus neighbors but I don't see it and it is not in the package. Laura stated that she would send a copy of the letter to the committee. Robert stated that we received an email today from a neighbor who was alarmed at the dbrushing that is going on and wants to know if we had the appropriate permits. I told Karen to tell him we are paying for it but we are not doing the project and have him talk to the Conservation Commission who is in charge of wetland work and the Park Department that is doing the work. All the work has been done and sometimes trail maintenance and increasing a trail may look while the work is being done may look like something bigger is happening. He was notified by the Conservation Commission so he did call the Conservation Commission and realized that he had been notified and just didn't respond to the letter. Patrick reached out to Kevin Chafee and called him one morning and invited him to walk it and see if we are walking the same page with the Conservation Commission. As Juanita said we are cleaning up that trail that wasn't taken care of for years.

Godfrey Trial Phase Two

Laura stated that they are applying for Godfrey Triangle Phase Two which would help us to complete

restoration of the triangle. For those that are new to the project, Godfrey Triangle is located in Indian Orchard on Berkshire Avenue and is across from the JFK middle school. There is an open space there and there is a terrace that is about a little under an acre and there is a World War1 monument with a new Flag Pole. Previous phases of this project were supported to add a walkway around the monument, benches and landscaping. At that time it was the intention to add lighting and irrigation on the site. Unfortunately, due to the rising cost of materials and labor those became out of the project budget. In the meantime, have the Historic Commission take a look at this site and determine if it was eligible for historic funding or if it was historically significant to the area which they had deemed as historically significant as the Indian Orchard neighborhood. So we are coming back to the committee to see if we can finish phase two which would be specifically the installation electrical service and irrigation service for the site. The electrical power lights for the flag pole which is a sixty foot flag pole. Unfortunately solar lights are not really an option. We haven't had a lot of luck with flagpoles that are over twenty five feet so we are looking to install electrical service, irrigation and then do a replication of a bronze eagle that at one time was a part of the monument and has been missing. The neighborhood has been persistent in good ways in trying to get the eagle and the monument restored to its original display. That is the general gist of phase two and with this phase we would complete the restoration of this project. The neighborhood and the city are very appreciative. Zaida then stated that she wanted to say "thank you" to the Community Preservation who initially gave us the grant to start the restoration. The veterans in Indian Orchard and a lot of other residents wanted to see it restored. That is a World War 1 memorial which we initially got a two thousand dollar grant for and then we applied for and got money from the CPA grant. Unfortunately we couldn't finish the eagle. I'm so happy that the Park Department is continuing the restoration and thank you so much. Robert stated that he had a general question. I know that maintenance is the responsibility of the Park Department but last fall when I was seeing the completed work from Phase One I saw in a new planting bed a five foot tall weed. I'm happy to help fix up open spaces around our city but we need to either have the neighborhood organizations or the park staff be more diligent on the details of it. So I guess the question comes on all of these spaces and how do we deal with that. Do you get partners from the neighborhoods that agree to handle the stuff that the guys who come and mow the lawn won't do necessarily. Then I went to look at the Veterans monument in East Springfield and was horrified to see more crabgrass in the planting beds than there were flowers. Zaida stated that she noted that the Citizens Council sent out a request for the neighbors. About five neighbors and council members did some weeding, cleaning up a little bit of that bed. We are actually going out there every few months so we can keep our eye on it. I know that the Park Department does the best that they can and we really appreciate it Bob. Patrick asked Robert if we spoke to our vendor Lisa Jandreau who has that responsibility and we had a few talks with her that it should be much improved this year. Robert replied by stating "that's good to hear." I had a conversation with Zaida after I saw the weed. .weeding. Nothing is perfect and we are happy to see that the Park Department and the Neighborhoods are working together. I think that it is crucial that as we do these projects we have that partnership

to make sure that whatever we are fixing stays looking fabulous. Robert asked, are there any other questions for Committee Members?

Myrtle Street Park

Zaida Govan began by stating this project and the City Council and what we wanted to do at Myrtle Street Park with the support of the neighborhood Parks Department. We want to add some amenities to the park and we want to improve the playscape that's there.

We would like to have some playing tables . We have been going for a year now and we have a chess club now. When the spring comes out we can bring the chairs out and there and go back to having our little barbecues out there and have them come out and play chess. Continuing to enhance that park with

benches and different things like that. We are getting a Valley Bike Station installed at Myrtle Street Park hopefully so that we have another enhancement that would be added to what the CPA would hopefully allow us to do. That is basically our plan, the Parks Department did have a budget around here and we are very excited for what is happening in Indian Orchard. Robert asked if the park staff had anything to add to this? Laura thanked Zaida for approaching us with this Myrtle Street project. Myrtle Street Park has received some funding in the past and it was a little bit piecemeal but it was just things that we could do and they renovated the splash pad with that project to make a new staircase entrance that helps get people down from the park which is a steep incline. We are now working on a walking path to help connect the staircase entrance so they can get down to the park that has a deep incline. We will be adding a walking path now to help connect the staircase to the rest of the park and adding some amenities that people are looking for in the park to recreate would really complete renovations at this park. The budget includes design and construction costs. There will be some design needed and survey of that walkway. We are confident that it can be done within the budget.

Hennessy Park Revitalization

Chris Seabrook began by stating that Hennessy Park is located on Oakgrove Avenue and Kenyon street. This park in itself hasn't been updated in a very long time. We recognized that there was a need to address where people were coming from in the park, making sure that if you look at the overhead of the park that there are some blue lines and some pathways that are not supported by the actual entrances. Once out of the park there is a dirt path to another side so that to me and to us means that there needs to be a sidewalk there, sidewalks across both sides recognizing that families are using it for barbecues and for passive recreation. We thought it would be great if they had a pavillion to make sure that they can actually have shade in the summer and in hotter months and really trash cans and benches are new updates on both of those. It is a pretty strict project and we really want to make sure that it is updated and obviously will do our job to make sure that it is kept to our best ability. It is really a great opportunity to give the neighborhood a fresh start at a new park and some great amenities. Gwendalyn I want to thank Chris for bringing information on Hennessy Park if it was updated at our Easter Egg hunt there and we have to have it at Magazine Park. Chris stated that we want to do landscaping for the Easter Egg Hunts. We want to create new nuances for Easter Eggs to hide and give a fresh look to a neighborhood that we could enjoy. Robert then stated that the application contains and I call it a bird's eye view of schematic birds eye view as proposed but doesn't include a more exacting design on the pavilion how high it is, how wide it is, what is it going to look like from the ground. Can you get us something as to

what size and what appearance it is going to be? Chris stated that they can get something that is more specific about that. Juanita also posted a picture of the pavillion and also of the benches so if you could include some pictures of the pavillion and benches. Chris stated that he would do that. Chris stated that for this one specifically we will make sure exactly what type of bench we will use. Robert stated and the trash receptacle so the neighborhood council gets it as well so we are all on board. Robert did add that you don't have anything that the park department owns what the park used to be house lots, north of what used to be leete street. I am assuming that this is park land. Do you have anything in your archives that says that? I will definitely google a little deeper so I can make sure but they are stated as park land. I will go back and do the research to make sure that we are correct. Chris asked Bob did the park look then as it does now? What were you seeing as opposed to what you're seeing now? Robert did say that he doesn't remember a lot of changes. I can't remember whether there was more active stuff in the northern end of the park and something like a basketball court. Frankly, I can't remember. Robert stated that the park department had some aerial maps but I don't know if they still have them. You might want to check with them as to whether they have some aerials dated from the late seventies or early eighties.

Bay Path Cemetery

Laura stated that she was happy to present this to you for the funding and restoration of the Bay Path Cemetery. This Cemetery is located in Blunt Park closer to the entrance to Putnam where you go to the Raymond Jordan Center and if you have gone into that entrance you have been driven by this sight and you maybe didn't know it was there. It is on the left hand side as you are coming in from Roosevelt Ave and Blunt Park Road. This is the Bay Path Cemetery which was used as a paupers field from 1879 to 1951 for this city and according to the research we were able to do at this point there are about 897 graves in this site. What we are hoping to do through this application is do some research and documentation of the site and put a narrative to the cemetery. We want to draw attention to that and to the families that are buried there and are respected. The project includes historic documentation and research and the completion of a Mass Historic Burial Ground Inventory Form. Also to some site improvements such as improved fencing. A new flag pole and monument, some respectful landscaping around the area and new signage as to what the area is and why it is always open and wanting to make sure that people know what's there. Part of the research will include ground penetrating sonar as to our understanding that there are crypts at this site and we want to make sure that it is safe for people to be in there. The application also includes funding to support that initiative. Once we found out about the project we wanted to make sure this area does get recognized and for what it is and the history of Springfield so we are excited to present it to you. I know that Gwen wants to share her thoughts as well and then we can open it up for questions. Gwen stated that she lived in that area for like seventy years. My mother never told me what it was because I would empty the trash and I would be scared to empty the trash. I am very happy to hear that they are going to be renovating it and possibly a new fence around it so it can improve the area. They have little plaques on the ground so those will remain there. There are 890 people still left there? According to what we have found there were different articles that were included in the packet that we did research to find in the archives there. A 1932 intermittent list. We want to know what's there that is part of the project focused on bringing in a historic preservation firm and that is what they do. They document and catalog cemeteries and burial sites and it will bring attention and awareness to it. Gwen stated that she understands that the whole Amore Village where I live used to be called the Potter's Yard, just not that little area there. My mother knew the whole history of it. They built those houses in 1948. Laura then stated if anyone has any questions we would be happy to provide the information. Robert asked, are there any questions by the committee people? Robert stated that he had one that is a triangular parcel that goes all the way down to Roosevelt Avenue. When you see it from the bird's eye view aerial, only a portion of it is in a grassy field. Is the ground penetrating radar that will be looking at the whole sight? Are there graves in the forested part of this parcel? We don't know the answer to that but we don't believe so. Laura stated that the line item in the budget for the survey is we did the whole site to make sure we could cover ourselves. I believe it is a little bit less than half an acre. What we would like to do is have the historic preservation consultant and get all the research and figuring it all out where it is and what areas need to be surveyed. We want to make sure that we could include that. Our understanding is that there are no graves in the tree line and it is just that open space. Robert then asked does anyone have any questions? Juanita stated that I think you need a letter from the conservation commission. Laura stated that she got it and I have spoken to Kevin. Juanita stated that she did learn a lot from this application. Juanita asked how many babies? Laura's response was so many. Laura stated that she was looking through the archives and there was a picture of my dad. I feel that this site should be honored and we are happy to have your support.

Karen asked to be recognized and stated she had visited and noticed broken ground markers, will they be restored and correspond to those buried with some kind of plaque? Laura responded by stating that it is our intent and again some of it will come into the design and getting some feedback from historic preservation and consultants there. What will make the most sense for that. We are not sure as to how it is going to look yet. Yes, we do want to pay our homage to those that are there. Karen asked if there was an underground crypt for the children? Laura stated that it is underground and that is why we asked for

ground penetrating radar so consultants can come out and basically do an underground survey so we can know what's where. Locating the crypts we can determine if they are structurally sound if we are opening the site up for people to be in there and walking through making sure that it is safe. That is part of the research. There is one photo from back in the thirties where you could actually see the markers. She would like to identify the graves in some way with some suggestions as well. Patrick stated that it might be a good Boy Scout or Girl Scout project. Even the Eagle Scouts may be interested in projects and that could be a good project for an Eagle Scout project. Laura also stated that the civic classes are looking for projects like that too. I feel that we are just getting into this project and getting into what some of those details can look like will come from the design process. Robert then asked are there any other questions from the Committee? Clinton had a question, how long will this project take? Laura stated that it depends mainly on what will drive the historic documentation and getting the ground penetrating radar. Typically, our projects near radar are contracted in January and we can officially get started. We are hopeful that we will complete it by November of next year if we are selected for funding. Gwendelyn stated that she was very pleased to hear what is going to be done. My parents are smiling in Heaven right now. There are some trees that have fallen and are falling right over almost to the back of our house. What are they going to do in that conservation area? What are they going to do in that Conservation Area? In those woods there are bodies because my girlfriend and I went on a scavenger hunt and we brought the bones to the museum and they asked us where did you get these? These are human bones! I told my mom that we have bodies in our backyard. Laura then stated that our survey will look into those areas and we can find out exactly where everyone is. Patrick then stated that we will look for your trees Gwendolyn. Robert stated that not seeing any more hands up includes the presentations for tonight.

We have done a Doodle Poll for a special meeting to do the next third and it will be on April 26th at 6PM and we will finish all of the park projects then and then we will have a few of the Historic Preservation projects as well that evening.

Patrick thanked the committee members. I know that this is a lot of work and your volunteers and as Bob said we are approaching year five and it is tremendous what is being accomplished. If you want to get a bus or a van take a tour in the city of the park projects that you all approved funding for, I would be happy to coordinate that for you. Robert stated that I think we would like that Pat.

Regular Business

Approve Minutes of March 1

Our regular business is to approve the minutes of March first. Can I have a motion to adopt Gloria made the motion. Rhonda second the motion. We will do a roll call vote and we will start with: Gloria DeFillipo: yes, Judith Crowell: yes, Clinton Harris: yes, Juanita Martinez: yes, Lamar Cook: yes, Willie Thomas: yes, Robert McCarroll: yes

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Robert stated that we haven't elected a chair and a vice chair and we are supposed to do that annually. We haven't elected a vice chair for a while. I have been the chair and Ralph has been the vice chair. Ralph is ready to continue and I am ready to continue. If anyone else would like to be either the chair of

the vice chair feel free to pipe up.

Gloria stated that she likes it just the way it is. Juanita felt that Robert and Ralph had done a great job and I think we should just leave it. We have a motion from Juanita and Judy second it. Juanita Martinez: yes, Judy Crowell: yes, Clinton Harris: yes, Lamar Cook: yes, Ronda Sharell: yes, Willie Thomas: yes, Gloria DeFillipo: yes and Robert McCarroll: yes

Historic Homes Program

The sub-committee met (Ralph, Judith, Ronda and Karen). Karen stated we reviewed and made changes to the application and discussed modifying the income scale. Ralph provided a few data points to consider a change to the income percentages and Rhonda and Judy were asked to choose a reasonable plan. We are waiting for their review.

Modification choices:

1. Keep the program the same as it was last year (100% reimbursement at 60% AMI) i.e. (60/200), where 60% income gets 100% reimbursement, and 200% gets 0%.
2. Keep the lower limit at 60%, and increase the upper limit cutoff to 250% or 300%.
3. Increase the 100% reimbursement rate from 60% of area median income to 80% AMI.
4. Shift the program in both ways (80% AMI at 200%, 250% or 300% limit).

Shifting both the upper and lower limits means the 100% reimbursement rate is available to more people with slightly higher income and allows for more partial reimbursements (i.e. 80/300 provides more eligibility and 60/200 provides the least).

Robert stated that it would be good if we can button up the application because if you remember the bulk of this will be handled by lottery which we can do in due time. We made the commitment that we would be helping two specific deteriorated porches at 111 Dartmouth Terrace and 62 Westminster Street. The sooner that we can have an application the sooner we can get it to them so we start working with them as we are still figuring out how to handle the lottery issue. We do have a proposed application and those changes were sent to the subcommittee to be finalized.

Administrator's Updates

Karen stated the 26 Main Street rehabilitation contract was delayed until granted a permit and conveyance. They did receive Historical Commission (SHC) support to create a Historic District and following sixty days from the Mass Historic letter of support Alvin Allen will schedule a public hearing (May 18). The developer has agreed to be the petitioner of the records which is important. We do want to protect that building in case they don't go with this project.

Classical Condos finished submitting all their paperwork except for a few remaining questions from the preservation consultant..

Next Meeting- April 26th

Robert asked if someone would make a motion to adjourn. The members raised their hands to adjourn.