

Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board
August 5, 2010
Meeting notes

Members present: Susan Ezrati, chair and members Rich Biezinski and Phil Seymour.
Since there was not a quorum present, no business was conducted and only notes were taken for this meeting.

Update from Subcommittee on Village and Hamlet Parcel Mapping

Susan said she had met with Brent and others several times to discuss what preservation projects would be eligible for funding, focusing especially on projects from the Villages and Hamlets.

She said that after looking closely at the Community Preservation Fund law, the group had concluded that the use of funds for the purchase of façade easements was about the only recourse available for the preservation of historical structures and that only structures listed on the State Register of Historic Places were eligible for such purchases. She said that the group had further concluded that since there were few structures in the Villages and Hamlets that were currently listed on the Register and thus eligible for these easements, the group would encourage the Town and Village boards to adopt zoning policies that would slow the demolition of structures considered historically significant by those communities. In addition, the owners of historically significant structures would be encouraged to apply for listing on the State Register. Once accepted on the Register, those structures would become eligible for the purchase of a façade easement. She noted that funds could not be used for maintenance or restoration of a historic structure.

Susan went on to say that purchases leading to the protection of wetlands, aquifers and village gateways were also allowed by the CPF law. Rich noted that wetlands and village gateways were often located on agricultural parcels and that these parcels had been ranked higher as a result.

Project wrap up

Susan said that since the agricultural properties had been reviewed and ranked, the Committee was ready to take the next step, which involved working with a template for evaluating applications for funding. She said that she had contacted Ted Fink about helping with this aspect of the project and that she would investigate how much would be needed for Ted's work and what funds were available.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 .

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Schoonmaker