



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



MINUTES  
JUNE 23, 2021

### MEMBERS

Laura Beretsky, Chair  
Heather Heimarck, V/Chair  
Andrew Louw  
Tatiana Shannon  
Cristina Kennedy  
Eleanor Rances  
Alan Bingham  
Jahan Habib  
Rose White

### STAFF

Alan Inacio

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) virtually held its monthly meeting at 6:30 pm on the GoToMeeting platform in compliance with Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 regarding the Open Meeting Law.

**Members Present** Chair Laura Beretsky, Vice Chair Heather Heimarck, Andrew Louw, Cristina Kennedy, Alan Bingham, Jahan Habib, Rose White, Tatiana Shannon, Eleanor Rances,

**Staff Present** Alan Inacio,

**Others Present** Lisa Brukilachio, Roberta Cameron (prospective CPA Manager)

### Agenda Item 1: Roll Call and Approval of the May 26<sup>th</sup> Minutes (5 minutes)

Ms. Beretsky opened the meeting at 6:35 and welcomed everyone on the call. She reminded everyone the meeting was being held virtually and being recorded in accordance with Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and the orders of Mayor Curtatone. Ms. Beretsky proceeded to take roll call and establish quorum. She noted that Mr. Alan Bingham was not present at roll call but did join the meeting shortly after. Chair Beretsky then asked if any members of the public were present to comment of which there were none. After a period of technical difficulties, minor grammatical comments were made on the minutes from chair Beretsky and member Kennedy. After getting those comments on the record a motion to approve was made by vice chair Heimarck and seconded by member Louw. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### Agenda item 2: Update on CPA Manager Hiring

Chair Beretsky turned the floor over to Director Inacio who introduced the pending CPA manager, Roberta Cameron. After a brief introduction of Ms. Cameron's professional background Director Inacio turned the floor over to Ms. Cameron who introduced herself to the committee. Chair Beretsky then introduced herself and asked each member of the committee to subsequently introduce themselves.

### Agenda item 3: Growing Center Project Update

After an introduction of the item from Chair Beretsky, Director Inacio introduced Lisa Brukilachio who provided an update on the growing center community garden project. Ms. Brukilachio provided a history of the project and also an updated status on what was remaining to complete the project. After the update, a request for a time extension was proposed to bring the project to completion. Committee member Cristina Kennedy asked Ms. Brukilachio if the requested extension provided enough time to complete the project and if additional time was needed. Several members urged Ms. Brukilachio to extend the extension further. Ms. Brukilachio concurred and it was agreed to extend to June 2022. It was also agreed to change the scope to add language to include a 20% contingency line to expend the

remainder of the funds. A motion to approve was made by vice chair Heimarck and seconded by committee member White. The item was unanimously approved.

#### **Agenda Item: 4 Pre-Applications Update.**

Director Inacio opened the item by turning the floor over to Committee member Louw to provide a brief description of the three pre-applications for city funded projects by the Public Spaces and Urban Forestry division. Mr. Louw described the request for additional funds for the open space acquisition fund, a proposed community garden on Glen St. on the lot that had been previously acquired by the city adjacent to the Capuano School, and a proposal to match CPA funds with a state sponsored PARC grant to develop the Somerville Junction located between two of the upcoming greenline stations. Mr. Louw provided detailed presentations and graphical depictions of the Glen St. community garden and junction park proposal's. After a couple of rounds of questions by committee members on both the Glen St. community garden and the junction park project Mr. Louw was thanked for his presentations and the committee their interest in looking forward to reviewing the full applications.

#### **Agenda Item: 5 Community Events.**

Chair Beretsky introduced Dr. Inacio to provide a brief follow up from last month's discussion on community outreach. Director Inacio presented two slides on up coming public events that have been scheduled since the loosening of Covid restrictions and a schedule of various Farmers Market venue's through the fall. The committee discussed the various events and past experiences with outreach at specific events. The committee decided that conducting outreach at the smaller farmers markets venues where more focused attention could be placed on specific neighborhoods was the best path forward. The chair and vice chair also recommended that a formalized schedule of volunteers to conduct the outreach should be one of the first action items for the incoming CPA Manager.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Other Business**

Director Inacio proposed extending the Eligibility Determination form from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of July and also to move the July meeting from July 21<sup>st</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup>. Several members including the Chair and Vice chair concurred with this schedule change. After a verbal survey of all the members Director Inacio informed the committee he would take the formal steps necessary to officially change the dates of the July meeting. Vice chair Heimarck proceeded to provide an additional reminder of the meeting schedule through the fall of 2021 and a request to motion to adjourn was called for by Chair Beretsky. The motion was made by Ms. White and seconded by Andrew Louw and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

#### **Documents and Exhibits**

1. Agenda
2. Presentations/Testimonies