

Three residents have applied to fill the "general public" seat, which carries a three-year term.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is made up of Somerville residents who set the priorities for approximately \$2 million in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds each year and recommend which projects should be funded to the City Council. A general public seat is opening on January 1, 2021 and Somerville residents are invited to share feedback on the applicants' qualifications. Email feedback to the CPA Manager Judith Tumusiime at jtumusiime@somervillema.gov by Friday November 27 at 4:30pm.

The successful candidate will have a three-year term running from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2023, and will have the option to renew for a second three-year term. State law designates that committee members shall be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. To engage the community in selecting the most qualified applicant Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone has formed a review committee of community members and residents with expertise in related areas to review applicants, conduct interviews, and consider public feedback on candidates. The review committee considers both professional and lived experience and seeks to nominate a candidate that has experience in the construction industry/housing development and contributes to the diversity of background and perspectives of the CPC. From the group of applicants, the review committee will nominate a candidate for appointment for the Mayor to review, and the Mayor will submit the finalist candidate to the City Council for approval.

Thanks to all applicants for their interest and dedication to Somerville. Below are summaries of the applicants describing why they are qualified candidates for the CPC.

Ellie Botshon

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the City's Community Preservation Committee position. In 2018, I was awarded one of the CPA grants in open space. This has sparked my interest in working with the CPC to help allocate funding for other projects to better our community. As a prior grant-writer, non-profit board member, and housing advocate, with almost 20 years in the local real estate community, my experience and enthusiasm is well aligned with the CPC's mission. Additionally, with a continued interest in open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing, coupled with an MBA and a Certificate in Urban Planning, I believe I am qualified to help determine how best to allocate resources in order to make a significant social impact in the community. I passionately welcome the opportunity to help create positive social change in the city I love and call home.

Mark "Scot" Ste-Marie

I am the Senior Manager of Somerville's largest residential building and have been an active member of the community since moving to Somerville in 2017. During this time, I have worked

to create a welcoming community that is connected to and supportive of Somerville's diverse population. I am confident that my financial background, knowledge of Somerville's housing market, and demonstrated commitment to the community will make me an asset to the Somerville Community Preservation Committee. By joining, I aim to continue bridging the gap between Assembly Row and Somerville's other squares to ensure all current/future residents of Somerville have the ability to live, connect, and engage with Somerville's community in a way that's meaningful to them. As Somerville continues its rapid growth, it's vital to demonstrate our commitment to creating and preserving open spaces, historic properties, and affordable housing in a way that maintains the integrity and character of Somerville.

Jonathan Evans

As a resident growing a family in Somerville I am committed to this community and eager to see how I can contribute to its growth. The CPC has the responsibility to steward investments in the built fabric of this city and I believe my professional experience as an architect focused in the public realm with a particular focus in affordable housing, can be put to great service here. A focus of my work has been how to really hone what a project can do to be most impactful often in the face of significant constraints. I believe bringing this lens to the CPC will maximize the ultimate benefit to the Somerville Community.

All community members are invited to provide feedback on candidates by Friday November 27 at 4:30pm.

To find out more about serving as a CPC member, please visit www.somervillema.gov/cpa or www.communitypreservation.org.

Please note the number of applicants may change