

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

The 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 was opened 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 January 22 at 4:30pm.

The successful candidate will have a three-year term running from March 1, 2021, through February 29, 2024, 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.

Michael K. Payne

I am interested in volunteering to be a member of the Community Preservation Committee based on the following:

- My wife, two children, and I have lived in Somerville since 1986 and are invested in the continued improvement of the community.
- I was a member of the Historic Preservation Commission from 1998 to 2010. I served as the Chair of the Commission for ten of those years during which the Commission/City accomplished the restoration of Nathan Tufts Park and its Powder House and Field House; the stabilization of the Old Police station in Union Square and its ultimate re-use as housing; the expansion of Local Historic Districts; collaboration on the creation of Somerville's Demolition by Neglect ordinance; and lobbying for the making public money available to underwrite preservation activities through grants provided by the state's Historic Preservation Commission.
- I have been a registered architect since 1996 and recently retired after 24 years as co-founder and president of a Boston based architect firm whose mission statement was and is; "We Help Build Livable Communities".

Daniel Messplay

I am interested in becoming the next member of the City of Somerville's Community Preservation Committee (CPC). I currently work for the City of Cambridge as the Senior Zoning Manager in the Community Development Department. My professional background includes extensive public sector experience in various local government roles spanning public policy, urban planning, economic development and real estate development. I have a Bachelor's in Historic Preservation, a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning, and am finishing my Master's in Real Estate this spring. I am passionate about enhancing Somerville's open space network, increasing housing affordability and protecting vulnerable Somerville residents. My past work has been focused on making communities more equitable, more livable and more sustainable for *all* residents. It is this fierce commitment to community resilience and passion for public service that I hope to bring to the CPC.

Rose White

As a Somerville resident of 20 years and an affordable housing developer of 23 years, I have a deep appreciation for the importance of Somerville's CPC funds and the role they play in

strengthening communities. I currently work as a Housing Finance Specialist at 2Life Communities, a non-profit organization whose mission is to build and operate service-enriched housing for seniors in Massachusetts. Although my area of expertise is real estate finance, my passion is the critical thinking and planning involved with developing housing that truly meets the needs of populations and communities. In my professional career, I have had experience with planning and funding historic building renovations – and have personally been awarded two preservation awards from the Somerville Historic Commission for homes renovated in Somerville. I have used and administered CPA funds for affordable housing in other communities, and would love the opportunity to join the current Somerville CPC members.

Timothy Houde

I am a licensed architect in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and my work has focused primarily on multi-family housing. I am very familiar with the practice of residential design and the process in which developers and designers go through to provide multi-modal, multi-family, and affordable housing with a connection to open space. My profession also requires me to be very aware and sympathetic towards the historic preservation of buildings that contribute to maintaining the character of neighborhoods. Since I have lived in Somerville, I have tried to become an active participant in both city sponsored and neighborhood meetings. I recently contributed to the Somervision 2040 planning, and I am a frequent contributor and collaborator with the Winter Hill Neighborhood Association (WHNA) and the Gilman Square Neighborhood Association (GSNA). I am looking forward to participating in CPC discussions and using my experience to help inform the conversations. Thank you for considering me for the position.

All community members are invited to provide feedback on candidates by Friday January 22 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