



## Town of Bridgewater Community Preservation Committee

### MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2026

**A. Call to Order at 6:31.**

Members in Attendance: Gina Guasconi, Carlton Hunt, David Moore, Maureen Minasian, Patrick Driscoll

Members Absent: William Smith, Harry Bailey

Guests: Al Lacerda (Fire for Effect Foundation)

**B. Chair's Announcements**

Gina Guasconi thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**C. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**D. Approval of December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes -**

Item 6 Town House Historical Architectural Assessment will be amended to read "The CPC may be asked for matching funds to the grant."

*Carlton Hunt motioned to accept the December 10, 2025, meeting minutes with the amendment which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**E. Review of Financial Reports – as of December 31, 2025**

The financials as of December 31, 2025, were shared with the committee. The CPC is ahead for estimated surcharge income for the half year financials. The January report will include the closing of the Edson project. Earnings on investment year-to-date came to \$87,000. The income is approaching 75% of the anticipated amount budgeted. Available budget for unappropriated funds in about \$3.2M.

**F. Old Business**

**a) Applications Received:**

**1. Fire for Effect Foundation - Town River Landing Lighting and Landscaping**

The committee was asked by the Town Manager to hold off on taking action until he can do more research and provide additional clarification on the designation of the property. Al Lacerda attended the meeting and provided additional details on the possible designation of the property and its ramifications, future control, and other thoughts on the feasibility of the project using CPA funds. He noted it's very complicated. He is in conversation with the Town Manager. After discussion, Al said he is more apt to not move forward with the application. The CPC offered to hold the application for another month or so in hopes a path would be worked out. Mr. Lacerda indicated FFEF will meet later tonight, and he will be submitting a definitive letter to the CPC from the organization. A suggestion was made that, if the FFEF decides to withdraw the application, its letter contain language keeping the application open for re-submission at a later date. The CPC thanked Mr. Lacerda for his work, dedication, and vision for Town River

Landing. David Moore noted that the Historical Commission had voted a letter of support for the project.

**b) Eligibility Forms Received:**

**1. Storage Building at Legion Field**

Due to no action being taken by the applicant, the committee may drop this item from future meetings. Gina will follow up with Park and Recreation to see if it's still in the works. If it is not, it will be removed from agendas for future meetings.

**2. Cedar Street Community Center**

Due to no further action being taken, the committee will drop this item from future meetings.

**e)b) Project Updates - In Process**

**1. First Parish Unitarian Church Windows**

Due to delays in work for phase 1 and the cold weather, progress has been moving slowly resulting in a June 30th extension for the project.

**2. Hanson's Farm**

The Spring dedication is being planned for some time in April. Carlton will communicate with the Hanson's for a date. Josh will coordinate the event, extending invitations to the State delegation, MVP Grant officials, Town Council, Town Manager, Open Space Committee, Wildlands Trust, state representative and state senator, and Conservation Commission. He will also prepare the press release.

Location of trail bridge(s) are still being considered for several areas on the trail. The path needs to be defined and approved by Wildlands Trust and the Town.

**3. Stiles and Hart Improvements**

No updates at this time. The Town Manager will be meeting with the former Acting Town Manager, Blythe Robinson, to discuss details of the project being closed.. He will also be meeting with the CED Director, Bob Rulli, to determine the next steps. The Chair asked that the CPC be involved in the meetings. As voted at the CPC's prior meeting, the request to use the Stiles and Hart project funds to hire an independent company to the survey the norther boundary at southern entrance will be discussed with the Town Engineer for a recommendation on companies. Josh will follow up with Town Engineer.

**4. Hemlock Drive Windows Replacement**

The project is almost complete. Gina and Carlton will attend a walk-through on Friday, January 30, and expect that the final report will be completed by the next meeting or so

**5. Parthenon Frieze - Vote for additional Funding**

The project ran \$3,375 over budget due to changes in installation costs. In order to pay the invoices on time, the funds were taken from a Town account. That account now needs to be reimbursed. - \$4,500 is being recommended for completion of the project and also for the cost of a storyboard which is \$1,095.

*Carlton Hunt motioned to recommend \$4,500 for the remaining costs of the frieze project using funds from the Historic Account, 324200, which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Gina suggested putting out a press release drawing attention to the frieze and their importance once the storyboard is installed.

### **6. Town House Interior Historical Architectural Assessment**

The Chair submitted the request for an RFP and the project scope to the Town Manager who was consulting with the Town's head of maintenance before sending the RFP.

### **7. Multi-functional fields - Phase 1 Engineering**

The scope for the engineering RFP was submitted to the Town Manager by the Park and Recreation Department.

### **8. Cemetery Assessment**

The Town Council Budget and Finance has not acted on the CPC's recommendation. It discussed decreasing the amount requested and doing a pilot run. Gina and Carlton attended the meeting and asked that it be held at that level while the CPC complete more research. A scope of work was developed and submitted to four companies for quotes to assess the 10 town-owned cemeteries. Once the quotes have been received, they will be forwarded to the Town Council Budget and Finance Committee.

## **e)c) Project Updates - Completed Projects**

### **1. Broad Street Properties**

No update at this time. Project has been closed and the final report accepted pending the CR.

### **2. Summer Street Mobile Station**

No update at this time. Pending CR filing and final report.

## **e)d) Potential Projects**

### **1. Jenny Leonard Park**

No update at this time. Gina will ask at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on February 2 if the Commission is still interested in requesting CPA funds to improve the park. . , This depends on the Town accepting the adjacent parcel offered by Oldfield Estates. Pat noted that the Planning Board had voted to accept 3 streets in the development with a condition that the offer of the parcel is worked out with the Town. This is currently being discussed between the Town and the Oldfield Estates attorney.

### **2. Basketball Court - Scotland Field**

No update at this time. Gina will follow up on this with the Parks and Recreation Commission at their next meeting to see if they are still interested.

### **3. Restoration of Fire Department's Ousamequin Hand Pump Truck & Historical Pictures**

This project is back on track. The Historical Commission is preparing a letter of recommendation; they will be looking at the pumper during their tour of the fire station on 1/31. David offered to be the project liaison for the CPC..

### **4. Playground Accessibility**

The Disability Commission continues to work on the accessibility proposal for the project. It is

planning to confer with the Park and Recreation Supervisor, Jim Small, to discuss the needs.

**f)e) Application Template**

Revisions to the template are being considered and will be presented to the committee at a later meeting. Gina will forward Josh applications used by other towns then she and Carlton will meet with him to come up a new application.

**G. New Business**

**a) Potential New Projects**

**1. Town House - Match to Multicultural grant if town is a recipient**

A grant has been submitted by the Town for an assessment of the electrical, plumbing and heating for the Town House by the Town Manager's office. This would require matching funds which the CPC could potentially fund.

**b) Admin Code Change - CPC Membership**

The Town Manager plans to submit several revisions to the Town Code that include a change to CPC membership which would replace the Affordable Housing Trust member with an at-large member. The CPC is still looking for a replacement liaison from the Housing Authority,

**b) As brought up by the committee – none.**

**H. Committee Liaison Reports**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

The commission has not met recently.  
The next meeting is February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Historical Commission**

The commission would like to tie into the cemetery project. It is trying to find a placement solution for a gravestone they've been given as there is no record of the child.

A quote for the plaque/sign for the historic Titicut factory on the site has been received. However, the eligibility form has not been started. David Moore will reach out to the Town for clarification on placing the sign and then begin the application process to request funding from the CPC for the cost of the plaque.

**Open Space Committee**

No updates at this time.

**Planning Board**

No updates at this time other than what was discussed as part of the Jenny Leonard update.

**I. Upcoming Events**

The new fire station open house and ribbon cutting is on 1/31.

**J. Public Comment – none.**

**K. Next Meeting Date**

February 25, 2025. The format may be hybrid.

**L. Adjournment of Meeting**

*Maureen Minasian motioned to adjourn at 7:54pm which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.*