

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
Community Preservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2022 – 6:00 PM

On September 29, 2022, the Community Preservation Committee held a meeting at 6:00 PM at the Lakeville Police Station, 323 Bedford Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chairman Nancy Yeatts. Community Preservation Committee Members present were: Nancy Yeatts, Amy Knox, Barbara Standish, Nancy LaFave, Michele MacEachern and Susan Spieler. Absent were Michael Smith and Kathleen Barrack. LakeCAM was recording the meeting for broadcast and noted that there were technical difficulties at the start of the meeting.

JOINT MEETING WITH SELECT BOARD TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

Select Board Chairman LaCamera, L. Fabian and L. Carboni were present for the discussion. Chairman LaCamera noted that the Select Board and the CPC are not on the same page. He referenced the September 13, 2022 meeting and noted that it was supposed to be a training only but instead there was a violation of the Open Meeting Law. The Attorney General's Office is watching and members can be removed or fined. It was stated that the Town Clerk has given out information on the Open Meeting law and the Select Board cannot tolerate this happening and that there should have had a full committee when taking a vote like that.

Chairman LaCamera referenced the Town Officers that have experience with the Community Preservation Act. He explained that they are trying to help the Community Preservation Committee but are not being well received. There is no debate about the figures. The figures come from the Board of Assessors, Town Accountant and Treasurer and are certified. He spoke about the Community Preservation Coalition and how they are not a state agency and that they are lobbyist. They are not supposed to be giving advice to the Committee or legal options.

Chairman LaCamera stated that they would rather have the numbers certified by the Assessors and those numbers would have automatically gone into the reserve accounts. He referenced the Administrative Expenses and noted that any employee hired has to be approved by the Wage & Personnel Board and go through Human Resources. He stated that the Town is providing secretarial services and legal services that they are not charging for.

He referenced the draft Community Preservation plan. He noted that according to the bylaw it is supposed to be studied over a period of time not over three meetings and they have a draft plan. He stated that there are a lot of mistakes to be corrected and the Select Board has not officially reviewed it either. There is discussion on the two trainings that were setup, one for the staff and one for the Community Preservation Committee. Chair N. Yeatts spoke about how they are new a committee

Select Board Member Carboni spoke about how sometimes violations of the Open Meeting Law can happen accidently. They will work together to get this process moving along. CPC Member S. Spieler spoke about how the consultant explained that they should pass the budget now

otherwise we will not be able to utilize any funds until FY 2024. It was noted that the instructor from the Community Preservation Coalition was advocating for the group to take action and he was actually interfering with the Town's process. He explained that the difference between Town Meeting in the spring and FY '24 is only six weeks. Select Board Member Fabian spoke about how the group needs to have a level of trust in the Town Staff. It was noted that the funding for this runs on an annual basis and is based on the certified revenues. There are estimates used to project what the budget will be. This can be coordinated with the Assessors.

The members of the Community Preservation Committee spoke on the information that was provided from the Town Clerk regarding the Open Meeting Law and how the events of the September 13, 2022 discussion unfolded. Chair Yeatts spoke about agreeing to put anything on the agenda at the request of the members for the purpose of discussion. The members all agreed to work together moving forward. They agreed not to have the situation happen again.

Upon motion made by Member N. LaFave and seconded by Member B. Standish, the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Member N. LaFave and seconded by Member M. MacEachern, the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:45 PM.