

**League of Women Voters of Newton
Observer Report
Community Preservation Committee 10/20/09**

Members present: Michael Clarke* (open space), Leslie Burg* (planning board), Zack Blake (appointed by historical comm), Joel Feinberg* (affordable housing), Stephen Fauteux, Nancy Grissom (chair), Dan Green (* indicates new member. Full biographies are now at <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa/committee/NewtonCPC-members.pdf>).

Staff: Alice Ingerson

Members absent: Tom Turner, Walter Bernheimer

Other officials present: Ald. Jay Harney; **Others:** George Kirby, and about 10 folks on either side of the Charles River bridge question; Cindy Stone, Ann Larner & another board member/architect for the Newton History Museum.

Main points on agenda and action taken:

- \$15,000 supplemental request for Brigham House fire alarms approved (6-0 with Feinberg abstaining on the principle that one shouldn't pay for things purchased prior to committee approval)
- A supplemental request for the Newton History Museum Archives project (FY09) was returned to proposers for more information. It will come back before the committee in December at the earliest. Part of the issue is a 20-year old wheelchair lift near the dumpsters that the Museum decided to replace with a "universal entrance" where everyone else enters.
- Working Session: Charles River Lower Falls Bridge. Members requested a FINAL plan with FINAL figures. Several abutters (opposing) and supporters were in attendance and abutters repeatedly asked about process (and where they could be heard again). This will come back again no earlier than December. The final figure could be less than, but will not be more than the original \$100K, Kirby said. The DCR will only charge Newton for the approach costs. They will be fixing the bridge this summer.

Short news briefs:

Finances:

- There is roughly \$4 million in this year's CPA fund
- The six currently in-hand new proposals and two supplemental requests (including the \$15K just approved) add up to about \$2 million (numbers on Newton History Museum Archives are not clear and were not clarified at the meeting).

- Another \$3 million-plus in requests are expected to come in next FY. Ingerson gave the committee a list of folks who have notified her that they are preparing grant requests, but who did not finish in time for this year's deadline.
- Next year's state contribution is expected to dip below \$1million.
- Grissom suggested this might be the year to set aside funds for bigger things in the future.

Other:

- Fauteux updated the committee on state ethics reform, which applies to them as a volunteer board. It generally increases penalties to between \$10-25K, and prohibits even an appearance of impropriety, such as voting on a matter in which it could be said you had a conflict of interest.
- The committee approved a supplemental request funding process, which it adhered to at this meeting.
- Ingerson provided members with a list of continuing issues.
- Ingerson has tweaked the committee's Priorities for historic funds (tightening, requiring more documentation), which the committee approved.

Next Meeting: Proposal Hearing, Nov. 18, 6:30 pm, Cafeteria