



**COMMISSION ON THE USE OF PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTIES
(CUPOP)**

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6 pm

Town Hall Central Meeting Room – 11 Meetinghouse Lane

Present:

CUPOP Members: Nicole Donzello-Chair, Patti McKeon-Secretary, Alison Valsamis,
Javier Aviles, Leslie Lyons, and Lor Ferrante Fernandes

Guest Speaker: Chair Sandra Stein, Community & Cultural Center Building Committee

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.
2. **Proposed Community & Cultural Center for Old Firehouse Presentation**
Community & Cultural Center Building Chair Sandra Stein presented the conceptual design for the interior and exterior areas proposed for the old Firehouse. The design focused on accessible, flexible use of space. Awarded State Grant funds will be used for interior renovations. For upgrades to the surrounding outdoor space, a request to use ARPA funds was made; decision is pending. As for next steps, the Committee will move forward with construction drawings followed by a request for bids with recommendations to the Board of Selectman in June. The plan is for construction to begin in August.
3. **January Regular Meeting & February Special Meeting Minutes**
Motion: Lor Ferrante Fernandes motioned to approve the minutes.
Patti McKeon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Yes - Nicole Donzello, Patti McKeon, Alison Valsamis, Javier Aviles, Patti McKeon,
and Lor Ferrante Fernandes.
4. **Chair Nicole Donzello's Report**
 - For the first half of 2023, the Commissions will continue their work to update the list of publicly owned properties. In addition, the Commission will continue with recommendations for other publicly owned properties.
 - Regarding the 10-14 Merritt Avenue Subdivision, the developer deeded the available parcel to the Woodbridge Land Trust because they had interest in the property. Concerning this parcel, it was noted that CUPOP's recommendations were presented to the Board of Selectmen with a copy to TPZ in accordance with procedure.

- The Housing Committee intends to meet with residents in small groups to answer questions and provide information relating to affordable housing.

5. No Public Comment.

6. **Community & Cultural Center**

The proposed plans to convert the old Firehouse to a Community & Cultural Center was discussed. The idea of proper plantings for outdoor acoustics and a less outdated building façade was noted. Additionally, the notion that the old Firehouse property should be segregated from the surrounding property because it is publicly owned was discussed. Chair Donzello will follow up.

Motion: Lor Ferrante Fernandes motioned to recommend to adopt the recommendation (based on Chair Stein's presentation) to change the use of the old Firehouse to a community & cultural center. Patti McKeon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Yes - Nicole Donzello, Patti McKeon, Alison Valsamis, Javier Aviles, Patti McKeon, and Lor Ferrante Fernandes.

Chair Donzello will move forward to draft a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

7. **List of Publicly Owned Properties – Working Session**

CUPOP reviewed 23 properties on the existing list and identified a few Category Classifications changes. Relating to next steps, the existing list will be sorted to identify properties owned by the Woodbridge Land Trust Inc. to better facilitate research of the property deeds.

Motion: Lor Ferrante Fernandes motioned to adopt the (property) categorizations implemented this evening, and to check on the Woodbridge Land Trust properties to determine if they will remain as a part of the CUPOP list. Patti McKeon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Yes - Nicole Donzello, Patti McKeon, Alison Valsamis, Javier Aviles, Patti McKeon, and Lor Ferrante Fernandes.

8. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*