

City of Beverly



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ORDINANCE AD-HOC COMMITTEE

March 28, 2013

The Honorable City Council
City Hall, 191 Cabot Street
Beverly, MA 01915

RE: RECOMMENDATION OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE: PROPOSED DRAFT
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ORDINANCE

Dear Honorable Council:

I am pleased to submit the attached proposal as the final work product of the ad-hoc committee charged with developing a draft Community Preservation Committee ordinance.

The nine-member ad-hoc committee was formed early in January of this year and held its first meeting on January 17, 2013. It met six times over the following three months to develop a draft ordinance for your consideration. In the course of its work the committee researched other communities' ordinances and the model by-law published by the Community Preservation Coalition. It also consulted with Coalition staff and the City Solicitor, Finance Director, and Planning Department at various points in its deliberations.

The attached proposal has the Committee's strong and unanimous support. However, there was one issue on which members could not agree, and one that is therefore left for the City Council to consider. The City's Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) expressed strong interest in having a prescribed seat on the permanent CPC. In two separate votes taken at two different meetings, four members supported the idea and four did not (one was absent).

Those in favor of assigning the OSRC a permanent seat believe the OSRC represents certain community preservation interests that may otherwise not be represented adequately on the CRC. Those other interests are likely to be integral parts of the City's future community preservation initiatives.

The Honorable City Council
March 26, 2013
Page two of two

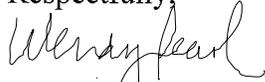
Those who do not support assignment of a permanent seat to the OSRC feel the OSRC's interests will in fact be adequately represented, particularly by the Planning, Parks and Recreation and Conservation representatives. Moreover, they feel strongly that the number of at large representatives on the Committee (already in the minority with only four of nine seats) should be left open and available for every interested citizen – including OSRC members – and not be further reduced by reassigning one of them to yet another standing City committee.

The Committee collectively hopes that the City Council will be able to adopt a final version of the attached ordinance quickly so that the tasks of soliciting membership interest and appointing the permanent committee members can occur before the Council's traditional summer recess begins in July.

On behalf of all members of the ad-hoc committee, thank you for choosing us to work on the City's behalf on this very important community milestone. The ad-hoc committee's meeting agendas and minutes will shortly be posted on the City website (www.beverlyma.gov/boards/category/community-preservation-committee). We will also post a copy of the draft ordinance and this letter there.

If you have any questions or need additional information relative to the Committee's work or the draft ordinance itself, please do not hesitate to contact me at (978) 335-4556 or Environmental Planner Amy Maxner at 921-6000, ext. 2345.

Respectfully,



Wendy S. Pearl
Chairperson

WSP/tc

Attachment

cc: Mayor William F. Scanlon, Jr.
CPC Ordinance ad-hoc committee members (*Robert Buchsbaum, Cathryn Keefe O'Hare, Shawn Mahoney, Marilyn McCrory, Heather Richter, Matthew St. Hilaire, Lincoln Williams, Peter von Zweck*)
Environmental Planner Amy Maxner
File