

LCHIP Board of Directors Grant Selection Meeting

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

December 16, 2013

Final Minutes

approved at January 27, 2014 meeting

Attending:

Voting Members: Doug Cole, Cynthia Copeland, Senator Jeannie Forrester, Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Harold Janeway, Rusty McLearn, Mandy Merrill (departed at noon), Bill Norton, Julia Steed Mawson, Charlie Royce

Non-voting Members: Tracy Boisvert, Susan Francher (departed at 1 p.m.), Jennifer Gornnert, John Kanter, Beth Muzzy, Paul Susca

Invited Guest/Historic Resources Review Panel Participant: Ben Wilson

LCHIP Staff: Jess Charpentier, Amy Dixon, Melissa Jones, Dijit Taylor

Introduction of Board Members and LCHIP Staff

Board members and staff introduced themselves and stated any conflicts of interest: Martha Fuller Clark serves on the Board of Directors of two Portsmouth groups applying for funding and will not participate in discussion of them or any votes on funding for them. Paul Susca has been an active volunteer for the Piscataquog land Conservancy and will not participate in discussion about the Brennan Brook project (and is a non-voting member).

Approval of September Minutes

MOTION: by Charlie Royce to approve Minutes from September meeting as presented
SECOND: Harold Janeway
VOTE: Approved unanimously

Finances:

MOTION By Charlie Royce to approve the November 2013 Finance Report
SECOND: Martha Fuller Clark
VOTE: Approved unanimously

Amount Available for Grants

How much to distribute in grants? State budgeted income for the year is \$4,160,000. LCHIP budget passed in July includes \$208,000 from the grant funds for administrative costs leaving a maximum possible total for grants of \$3,995,200. Income is coming in slightly ahead of budget. Four months of income in hand, totals \$1,491,671, less the budgeted amount for administration of \$208,000, leaving \$1,283,671 available in hand. Total cost to LCHIP of all 75 applications is \$7,028,372. Discussion weighs uncertainty about total income, timing of actual distribution of grants, and expectations of

various interested parties. Dave Hess, a voting member of the board absent from this meeting, has contacted all with the suggestion to distribute only what is in hand to date.

- MOTION:** By Rusty McLearn to retain 10% of the budgeted amount (including the previously decided 5% for administrative fee) thus making \$3,744,000 available for this grant round. Grant award notification to include statement that grants are subject to availability of funds.
- SECOND:** Julia Steed Mawson
- VOTE:** Approved unanimously

Grant Selection Dijit provided an overview of the day’s process including a review of the selection criteria, the review panels and their rankings and the stewardship endowment. Stewardship endowment is based on grant amount for Historic Resource projects and on appraised value for Natural Resource projects, with different percentages for fee and conservation easement acquisitions.

The Squam Uplands project has been withdrawn; likely to apply in the next grant round.

Jess, Amy and Dijit presented a slide show with image, basic facts and review panel feedback for each of the 75 applications.

Since the time of the applications and review panel meetings, the Department of Justice has clarified that it is inappropriate for LCHIP to provide grants for projects that are fully the responsibility of state agencies. Therefore, the Wentworth Bridge project is not eligible for funding because it is currently fully the responsibility of the state Department of Transportation. The Stone Arch Bridge is eligible because there is an existing agreement between DOT and DRED assigning certain responsibilities for the bridge to the City of Keene.

The Historic Resources Review Panel recommended that a handful of projects be offered historic structure studies rather than the requested grant for project. There was extensive discussion about the best way to address the perceived need for studies. Studies lead to projects that better address the preservation needs and priorities of the structure. Since 2009, the Preservation Alliance has requested and received funding from LCHIP to help with small studies. That funding is depleted; they have not applied for more. Offering funding for a study rather than a project would likely be an unwelcome surprise for applicant. If they choose not to accept, funding is unavailable to a project that is “shovel ready.”

Throughout the voting that followed, Office Manager Melissa Jones provided a running tally of the dollars that had been committed and the amount remaining.

Motion	Made by	Seconded by	Vote
To remove from funding consideration the following projects: Green Meadow Acres, Deacon Tuck Grist Mill, Freedom Village Store, Stevens-Buswell School, Langdon Library, Jackson Old Library, Manchester Historic Association Windows, Wakefield Opera	Julia Steed Mawson	Bill Norton	Approved Unanimously

House, Nichols Memorial Library.			
To offer funding for studies to Milton Free Public Library, Jones Hall, Philbrick-James Library, Cathedral of the Pines and Whitcomb Hall (\$7500 each) and Anna Hunt Marsh Annex (\$2250)	Bill Norton	Julia Steed Mawson	Passed with 8 in favor and 1 opposed (See further motion re studies on page 4.)
To fully fund the following projects: Mount Major, Isinglass River, Growing Pawtuckaway to Great Bay Greenway, African Burying Ground, Canterbury Shaker Village Trustees' Office, Brown Company Barns, Littleton Community Center, Milton Town House Floors, Lempster Meetinghouse, Wyman Tavern, John Paul Jones House, Wentworth Gardner House, Warner House, Building #3 and Inspecting Room, Lowd House Project, 1913 Boscawen Library, Oceanic Hotel North and East Walls, Castle in the Clouds, Green Hills Expansion Project, Brennan Brook Project, Wingate Farm and Robie Farm.	Bill Norton	Julia Steed Mawson	Approved unanimously (Martha Fuller Clark recused)
To provide a grant of \$200,000 to the Tuck Library	Charlie Royce	Martha Fuller Clark	PASSED with 6 in favor, 3 opposed
To provide a grant of \$100,000 for the Crooked Run Project	Martha Fuller Clark	Julia Steed Mawson	PASSED with 7 in favor, 2 opposed
To provide no funding for the King's Grant Farm	Bill Norton	Martha Fuller Clark	Approved unanimously
To fully fund the Stickney Hill project	Martha Fuller Clark	Cynthia Copeland	Passed with 8 in favor, 1 opposed
To fully fund the Shattuck-Dinsmore Phase III project	Charlie Royce	Cynthia Copeland	Approved unanimously
To fully fund the Maple Ridge Farm project	Martha Fuller Clark	Jeanie Forrester	Approved unanimously
To fully fund the Jones Farm project in Milton	Cynthia Copeland	Martha Fuller Clark	Approved unanimously
To fully fund the Middleton Old Town Hall	Cynthia Copeland	Martha Fuller Clark	PASSED with 7 in favor, 2 opposed
To fully fund the Meredith Public Library	Rusty McLear	Jeanie Forrester	Approved unanimously
To fully fund the Belknap Mill, Bow Bog	Martha	Jeanie	Approved

Meetinghouse, Acworth Village Store, Lane Tavern, East Grafton Union Church, and Palace Theater	Fuller Clark	Forrester	unanimously
To <u>not</u> provide funding for studies for Milton Free Public Library, Jones Hall, Philbrick-James Library, Anna Hunt Marsh Annex, Cathedral of the Pines and Whitcomb Hall (reversing the vote earlier in the meeting).	Jeanie Forrester	Julia Steed Mawson	Approved unanimously
To provide full funding for the Keene Stone Arch Bridge and \$15,000 each to the Belmont and Kingston Bandstands.	Martha Fuller Clark	Rusty McLearn	Passed with 8 in favor and 1 opposed

The available funding thus being committed to the projects voted above, the following projects will not receive funding: Hebron Academy Building, Hancock Meetinghouse, Bradford Town Hall, Nelson Town Hall, Suncook Clocktower Preservation, Brewster Memorial Hall, Clinton Grove Academy, Robie's Country Store, Player's Ring Theater Building Rehab, New Durham Meetinghouse, Washington Town Hall/Meetinghouse, Growing Oaklands, West Hill/California Brook Natural Area, Black Hill Forest, Abbott Hill, Wond-R-View Farm and Hope Farm.

Announcing the results: Staff will call all applicants in the next two days. Recipients will be asked to make no public announcement of the award until after the LCHIP Media Event, scheduled for 10:30 a.m., January 3rd, 2014 at Legislative Office building, followed by luncheon hosted by NH Preservation Alliance for recipients at the Tuck Library.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, January 27, 2014 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at NH Department of Resources and Economic Development.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Jones
LCHIP Office Manager

Approved by:

Doug Cole
LCHIP Board Chairperson