



# CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

## MINUTES MARCH 20, 2019

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) held a special meeting at 6:30pm in the third floor conference room at the Visiting Nurse Association, 259 Lowell Street, Somerville, MA 02144. An audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.

### MEMBERS

Michael Fager, Chair  
Uma Murugan, Vice Chair  
Dick Bauer  
Laura Beretsky  
Jane Carbone  
Rebecca Lyn Cooper  
Luisa Oliveira  
Eleanor Rances  
Tatiana Shannon

**Members Present** Chair Michael Fager, Vice Chair Uma Murugan, Dick Bauer, Laura Beretsky, Jane Carbone, Rebecca Lyn Cooper, Luisa Oliveira, Eleanor Rances

### STAFF

Kristen Stelljes

**Members Absent** Tatiana Shannon

**Staff Present** Kristen Stelljes

**Others Present** None

The chair opened the meeting at 6:37p.m.

This meeting served as the Community Preservation Committee SomerSupper. As such, Ms. Murugan led Committee members in a discussion on the Community Preservation Act's contributions to SomerVision. Based on this discussion, the Committee proposed the following feedback to the SomerVision Steering Committee:

### *Affordable Housing*

- There is a need for more non-profit housing developers in Somerville.
- The Committee would like staff to ensure that housing non-profits operating programs in historic buildings know they can apply for CPA historic resources funding to rehabilitate their buildings.

### *Historic Resources*

- The City of Somerville should complete the historic preservation plan and it should include a prioritization of areas for action, including buildings at risk and preserving historic resources in the Transformative Areas.
- More data on the City's historic resources is needed to sufficiently plan for their preservation.

- The Committee strongly encourages historic preservation projects that are done in combination with open space creation or rehabilitation and for historic buildings that also house social service programs.
- In addition to planning for and preserving historic buildings, the City should also preserve historic collections and landscapes.

*Open Space/Recreational Land*

- The limitations and trade-offs around open space creation should be effectively communicated to the community. The community needs to discuss these issues in order to guide the City's strategy.
- The Committee recommends focusing on increasing tree canopy over creating new parks because of the climate change mitigation benefits trees provide.
- The Committee would like to encourage the use of natural landscapes for park renovations.
- The Committee should ensure its definition of sustainability includes ecoservice benefits.
- An ecosystem benefits scorecard should be developed to measure the success in park renovations in increasing the ecosystem benefits each open space in Somerville provides.
- The Committee questioned the feasibility of acquiring 125 new acres of open space in the short term and encourages the SomerVision Steering Committee to look at other metrics that would address climate change and improve the quality of life in addition to a goal for new acres of open space.

*Other*

- The Committee encourages the SomerVision Steering Committee to set realistic goals and develop implementation plans for achieving these goals.
- Somerville would benefit from a stronger non-profit ecosystem and the development of new and/or existing organizations to work with the City as partners in implementing SomerVision.

**Next meeting: The annual Community Preservation Plan hearing will be held at 7:00pm on March 27, 2019.**

**Meeting Adjournment**

Upon motion from Ms. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Bauer, the Committee voted 8-0 to adjourn at 8:38p.m.

**Documents and Exhibits**

1. Agenda
2. SomerVision Goals, Policies, & Actions Table