

Questions on Timeliness of Historic Preservation Restriction for Mayflower Meeting House

Community Preservation Committee

July 23, 2026

Ropewalk Room, Town Hall

Board Members present: Edward Bradley, At-Large, Chair; Tim Grandy, Planning Board Liaison; Vice Chair; Len Levin, At-Large, Clerk; Paul Churchill, At-Large via Zoom; Lisa Hickey, At-Large; Bill Koehan, Parks and Recreation; Courtney Curran, Housing Authority Rep.; and Sharl Heller, At-Large. Kristin Ford, CPC Coordinator. Absent: Doug Ozelius, Historic Commission Liaison.

Guests: Brendan Annett, Vice Pres. Watershed Protection, Buttermilk Bay Coalition
Paul Blanchard, Vice Chair of the Historic Commission
Mike Cahill, Climate Resiliency & Sustainability Planner
David Gould, Director, Department of Energy and Environment
Anne Slusser, Recreation Director

Brief Summary of Key Discussions –Review of CPC Applications for Fall FY27. Meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

Reorganization of the Community Preservation Committee: Ed Bradley nominated and elected to be Chair, Tim Grandy nominated and elected Vice Chair, Len Levin nominated and elected Clerk.

Note: No votes were taken on the CPC applications presented.

Annett, Presenter: Buttermilk Bay Coalition/ CR Application ask \$750,000
This will be a joint endeavor between the Town of Plymouth and the Town of Bourne. Rational for purchasing this land for conservation:

- Mann Cranberry Farm – both sides of Rt. 25
- Conservation land continuity.
- Water quality benefits (close to estuary).
- Wildlife/habitat benefits.
- Public access/recreation.
- Buttermilk Bay Coalition employs a staff of 30 people. They will be able to monitor and manage this land and provide stewardship to the area.

Cahill, Presenter: Downtown Resiliency – Phase 1 / Construction: Depot Square Park, Shirley Square and Main Street Corridor ask \$663,000

Benefits: Reduction of severe heat island effect
Improvement of stormwater runoff management/filtration
Significant improvements to pedestrian access and elimination of public hazards
Revitalization of the historic downtown area

Complete plan found on the Town Website under Priority Plymouth: Our Call to Climate Action.

Slusser, Presenter: Forges Master Plan Presentation: The immediate needs for Forges Recreation Park are maintenance of the playing fields and repair of the pathways. The phased-in master plan could cost over \$92 million. This is a very preliminary proposal. The cost of the Planning and Design was \$250,000. The goal is to maximize the space in the park and to utilize community input and what they would like to see in Forges Field. Meetings were held for the public. Grady asked who maintains Forges Field now.

Slusser: Crosswinds Golf Course maintains the fields and mows. A third party does trash removal. The DPW is not involved with this park.

Gould: request for appraisal funding for off-Island Lake Road 11-acre parcel of land. This land is located in the Cedarville area. Heller asked why it is valuable to the town. Gould replied that it is valuable because it is adjacent to a town-owned pond. The appraisal could cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000. Levin asked if the owner would consider splitting the cost? Gould said that would depend on several factors, like if the town decided to purchase the land. Or, the town could have an appraisal done and have conservation restrictions put on the land. The owner could sell his land, but it would always have the conservation restrictions. A motion was made and unanimously carried to give Gould the \$8,000 for the appraisal.

Historic District Commission Restriction Discussion: Bradley was concerned that the \$2.6 M had been given to the Mayflower Meeting House before they had obtained a Historic Preservation Restriction and had completed the project. Also, they have proceeded with building permits for handicap access on the south side of the building. The revised CPC application should help avoid this from happening/ no awards of CPC money without a Historic Preservation Restriction in place. This is a very technical process to get such a restriction. Koehan felt that both the Mayflower Society representatives and the Historic Commission members should have been present for this discussion. Levin requested that all the application documents be available at future planned joint meetings.

Public Comment: Paul Blanchard, Vice Chair of the Historic Commission, "felt insulted that Chair Bradley implied that the Historic District Commission had not been doing its job." The HDC had 3 public hearings and conducted 2 field visits to the Mayflower Meeting House and had voted approval at each public hearing that the project met the requirements of the HDC, and that at the last hearing the project also conforms to the latest draft restrictions the HDC received". The stone masonry and windows removed will be stored permanently according to the Dept. of Interior requirements.

Issues relevant to LWV position/programs none

Open Meeting Law (OML) Concerns	Yes	No
Were all speakers audible to all attendees?	x	
Were motion wording, motion maker names, and votes audible to all attendees?	x	
Were minutes posted per OML?	x	
Was public recording permitted and announced?	x	
If conducted, was Executive Session for one of 10 reasons per OML?		n/a
Comments:		

Public Meeting Best Practices	Yes	No
Was a name card for each Member in place and readable by attendees?	x	
Were visuals presented during the meeting visible to all attendees?	x	X*

Observer Corps Report



Were all in attendance civil and courteous to each other?		X**
Did Members follow their published Policies and Procedures, if any?	x	
Was any conflict of interest disclosed, per State Ethics Law or Plymouth By-Law?		n/a
Was there an opportunity for public comment as encouraged by Attorney General?	x	
Comments: *Some of the visuals were visible, and some were not **Koehan had to request many times to speak, while others were acknowledged.		

Observer name and date: Virginia Davis, August 1, 2026

- Link to recording on [The Local Seen](#), if available.
- When the official minutes from this meeting have been approved, they will be available on the Town website at [Plymouth Agendas & Minutes Center](#).