



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on the Community Preservation Act
Enrique J. Pepén, Chair

One City Hall Square 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ city.council@boston.gov

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

October 1, 2025

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on the Community Preservation Act was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #1570, Order to hold a meeting to interview applicants for the Community Preservation Committee.

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Enrique J. Pepén and was referred to the Committee on August 21, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

The City of Boston adopted the Community Preservation Act in 2016, which enabled the City to levy a 1% surcharge on property taxes in order to create a dedicated fund (CPA fund) for community preservation. Following its adoption, the City Council passed the Community Preservation Act ordinance in 2017, which set up a nine-member Committee (the CPC) to study community preservation needs and recommend use of the City's CPA fund (which supports affordable housing, historic preservation, open space, and recreation). The Committee consists of five members from City Boards and Commissions as statutorily required, and four members appointed by the City Council.

The Council's Committee on the Community Preservation Act is charged with interviewing eligible candidates for the CPC and providing the Body with nominations for approval. The CPA ordinance tasks this Committee with appointing four members who, together, meet the following criteria: one with experience in development, business, or finance; one with expertise in open space, affordable housing, or historic preservation; and two with a history of community involvement – while ensuring the appointees reflect the City's racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity and meet residency and other eligibility rules.

In 2023, the Council appointed four members: Ann Sanders, Darian Leta, Robert Whitney, and Phuongduy Tran, all of whom, together, have experience in business, development, finance, community involvement, open space, and historic preservation.

With the departure of Ann Sanders, this Committee is now tasked with appointing a new member to fill the vacant seat. Applications for the seat opened on August 11, 2025 and closed on September 12, 2025. The Committee received six applications and conducted their interviews on September 16th and 24th.



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Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held meetings to interview applicants on September 16 and September 24, 2025.

Over the course of the sessions, the Committee conducted interviews with multiple candidates representing neighborhoods including Brookline, Dorchester, Roxbury, Ashmont, Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, South Boston, and Brighton. Candidates brought a wide range of professional and community experience, spanning fields such as land conservation, nonprofit management, housing advocacy, finance and real estate, public health, higher education, business valuation and financial transactions, and community development.

Committee members asked candidates about their professional qualifications, their understanding of the Community Preservation Act, and their views on balancing funding priorities across housing, open space, and historic preservation. Members also explored how applicants would approach community engagement, equity, and displacement concerns, as well as how they would support nonprofit organizations and residents navigating complex processes.

Through these interviews, the Committee received valuable insights into how applicants would bring their expertise and perspectives to the Community Preservation Committee, particularly in relation to addressing Boston's housing crisis, strengthening community engagement, and ensuring equitable use of CPA resources.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on the Community Preservation Act I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At this time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that the attached appointment of **Michelle Holmes Foster**, **OUGHT TO BE CONFIRMED.**

Enrique J. Pepén, Chair
Committee on the Community Preservation Act