



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

April 2, 2014

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager *GT*

**SUBJECT:** Authorize payment of Fiscal Year 2013 -2014 Cittaslow membership dues

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### RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the payment of Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Cittaslow membership dues

### DISCUSSION

Mayor Weinsoff has requested this item be brought to the Town Council. Attached is a memo from the Mayor. Staff agrees that the Town Council budget could probably absorb the amount of the current fiscal year dues. However, as part of the budget approval process staff believes it is important for the Council to discuss the purpose and role of the Cittaslow Committee and whether it should be an official, designated Town committee or strictly a Citizen Committee without official Town representation or funding.

### ATTACHMENTS

Council Member Memo from Mayor Weinsoff  
Cittaslow Informational Handout

# TOWN OF FAIRFAX COUNCILMEMBER MEMO

**To:** Town Council  
**Date:** April 2, 2014  
**From:** Mayor Weinsoff  
**Subject:** Payment of Outstanding Cittaslow Dues

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In 2010, the Town of Fairfax was designated a “Cittaslow” – a global movement of small towns like ours that promotes “slow living in a fast world, and to inspire, connect and support small towns across America as they work to preserve and maintain their individual community and values.” At present, Fairfax is one of only 3 municipalities in the country (along with Sonoma Valley and the City of Sebastopol) to be honored with the designation.

Participation in the global Cittaslow program was presented to the Town Council by former Mayor Pam Hartwell-Herrero, and the Council unanimously supported the Town’s application. Participation in Cittaslow includes a financial commitment in the form of annual dues. Annual payments, for two years, were made until the current fiscal year, when \$2,985 became due on July 1, 2013. Dues in the same amount will be due July 1, 2014. Conversation among members of the Cittaslow Committee, Council representatives Bragman and myself, including outreach to some interested members of the community, has not revealed how the past due annual commitment will be paid.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Virginia Hubbell, Founder/Director of Cittaslow USA gave an excellent presentation on Cittaslow to our Town Committee and members of the public. She also asked me (as our Town’s Mayor) to attend the annual conference this summer in the Netherlands. As I intended be in Europe at the time of the conference, I re-arranged my family’s vacation and submitted the paperwork to Cittaslow to attend. I of course will cover the full expense of attendance (approximately \$400) with no cost to the Town. With the conference payment due in May, I am bringing this issue to the Council now as I will cancel my attendance at the conference if our delinquent Cittaslow dues are not paid. I personally do not think it is appropriate to attend the conference if we will at that time be almost a year in arrears on payment.

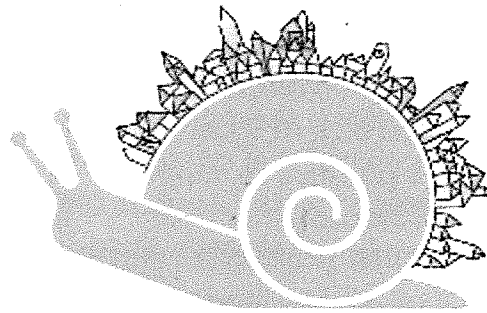
At this time I request that the Council determine whether it will allocate \$2,985 as payment for the delinquent 2013-2014 Cittaslow dues, and characterize these dues as a loan to be repaid from future outreach/fundraising by the Cittaslow Committee, or as payment by the Town from the Town Council FY13-14 Budget. I should note that as part of the FY13-14 budget process the Council decided not to budget for the membership dues, but I am asking the Council to reconsider that funding decision. For the FY14-15 dues, the Council could discuss that issue as part of the FY14-15 budget process.

Should the Council decide that it would prefer not to pay for the past due FY13-14 membership, I would recommend that the Council as part of the budget approval process discuss the purpose/role of the Cittaslow Committee and whether it should be an official, designated Town committee or strictly a Citizen Committee without official Town representation or funding.

***Creative***

***Catalytic***

***Sustainable***



*cittaslow*  
***USA***

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## **Mission & Philosophy**

The mission of Cittaslow USA is to promote the concepts of slow living in a fast world, and to inspire, connect and support small towns across America as they work to preserve and maintain their individual community identities and values. By promoting social, environmental and agricultural sustainability, Cittaslow USA guides communities in the development of programs that help improve the quality of life for all citizens.

The Cittaslow concept is not just one thing, it is a philosophy about many things. It is a commitment to preserve the best of local culture and heritage; a promise to support sustainable agriculture and environmental protection; and an embrace of new technology and alternative energy such that communities move forward using the best of both the old and the new. It is, in short, a way of being that enhances the health and welfare of all citizens while helping to promote a vibrant local economy.

## **History & Criteria**

Cittaslow, pronounced *chee-tah slow*, is an Italian word that literally means “slow city.” Slow here does not mean sluggish or dumb, it means taking time to enjoy life. Cittaslow International was launched in 1999, taking the tenets of the Slow Food movement and enlarging them to include the whole life of the community. Today there are over 140 Cittaslow member towns in almost 30 countries.

In America, Cittaslow is a unique public-private partnership model serving towns with populations of 50,000 or less. The Cittaslow philosophy can also be applied to individual neighborhoods within larger communities.

In 2009 Sonoma Valley, California became the first town in the United States to be designated Cittaslow. Sebastopol, and Fairfax, also in California, became Cittaslow in 2010. Today the Cittaslow network is spreading across all regions of the United States.

## **Certification**

Before being designated a Cittaslow, a town must submit a comprehensive application to Cittaslow USA and International. Certification requires adherence to comprehensive criteria, including the furtherance of:

- Environmental protection and sustainability
- Local products
- Hospitality
- Infrastructure
- Historic preservation
- New technology
- Cultural and historical values and diversity
- Unique town identity

Broad in scope, and deep in nature, the Cittaslow certification process helps communities understand and appreciate the positive benefits of “slow living” and being connected to a worldwide network of like-minded towns.

## CITTASLOW towns

<b>Cittaslow Australia</b>	○ Marihn	○ Castelnuovo nè Monti	○ Preci	○ Silves Tavira
○ Goolwa	○ Nördlingen	○ Castelnuovo Berardenga	○ Ribera	○ Vizela
○ Katoomba	○ Überlingen	○ Castel San Pietro Terme	○ San Daniele del Friuli	<b>Cittaslow S. Africa</b>
○ Yea	○ Waldkirch	○ Castiglione Olona	○ San Gemini	○ Sedgfield
<b>Cittaslow Austria</b>	<b>Cittaslow UK</b>	○ Castiglione in Teverina	○ San Miniato	<b>Cittaslow S. Korea</b>
○ Enns	○ Aylsham	○ Cerreto Sannita	○ S. Potito Sannitico	○ Cheongsong Co.
○ Hartberg	○ Berwick on Tweed	○ Chiavenna	○ Santarcangelo di Romagna	○ Damyang County
○ Horn	○ Diss	○ Chivaverano	○ San Vincenzo	○ Hadong County
<b>Cittaslow Belgium</b>	○ Mold	○ Chiavennino	○ Santa Sofia	○ Jangheung County
○ Chaudfontaine	○ Perth	○ Città della Pieve	○ Scandiano	○ Jecheon City
○ Enghien	<b>Cittaslow Holland</b>	○ Città Sant'Angelo	○ Stia	○ Jeonju City
○ Evere	○ Alphen-Chaam	○ Civitella in Val di Chiana	○ Suvereto	○ NamyangjuCity
○ Lens	○ Borger-Odoorn	○ Cutigliano	○ Teglio	○ Sangju City
○ Silly	○ Heerde	○ Fontanellato	○ Tirano	○ Shinan County
<b>Cittaslow Canada</b>	○ Midden-Delfland	○ Francavilla al Mare	○ Todi	○ Wando County
○ Cowichan Bay	○ Vaals	○ Galeata	○ Torgiano	○ Yeongwol County
○ Naramata	<b>Cittaslow Hungary</b>	○ Giuliano Teatino	○ Trani	○ Yesan County
<b>Cittaslow China</b>	○ Hódmezővásárhely	○ Greve in Chianti	○ Trevi	<b>Cittaslow Spain</b>
○ Yaxi (Gaochun)	<b>Cittaslow Ireland</b>	○ Grumes	○ Zibello	○ Begur
<b>Cittaslow Denmark</b>	○ Clonakilty	○ Guardiagrele	<b>Cittaslow N. Zealand</b>	○ Bigastro
○ Svendborg	<b>Cittaslow Italy</b>	○ Levanto	○ Matakana	○ Lekeitio
<b>Cittaslow Finland</b>	○ Abbiategrosso	○ Massa Marittima	<b>Cittaslow Norway</b>	○ Mungia
○ Kristinestad	○ Acqualagna	○ Monte Castello di Vibio	○ Eidskog	○ Pals
<b>Cittaslow France</b>	○ Acquapendente	○ Montefalco	○ Levanger	○ Rubielos de Mora
○ Blanquefort	○ Altomonte	○ Morimondo	○ Sokndal	<b>Cittaslow Sweden</b>
○ Créon	○ Amalfi	○ Novellara	<b>Cittaslow Poland</b>	○ Falköping
○ Labastide d'Armagnac	○ Anghiari	○ Orsara di Puglia	○ Biskupiec	<b>Cittaslow Switzerland</b>
○ Mirande	○ Asolo	○ Orvieto	○ Bisztynek	○ Mendrisio
○ Saint Antonin Noble Val	○ Barga	○ Pellegrino Parmense	○ Lidzbark Warminski	<b>Cittaslow Turkey</b>
○ Segonzac	○ Borgo Val di Taro	○ Penne	○ Lubawa	○ Akyaka
<b>Cittaslow Germany</b>	○ Bazzano	○ Pianella	○ Murowana Goślina	○ Gökçeada
○ Bad Schussenried	○ Bra	○ Pollica	○ N.Miasto Lubawskie	○ Perşembe
○ Berching	○ Brisighella	○ Positano	○ Reszel	○ Seferihisar
○ Bischofsheim	○ Bucine	○ Pratovecchio	○ Ryn	○ Vize
○ Blieskastel	○ Caiazzo		<b>Cittaslow Portugal</b>	○ Tarakli
○ Deidesheim	○ Capalbio		○ Lagos	○ Yaivaç
○ Hersbruck	○ Casalbeltrame		○ Aviras de Alportel	○ Yenipazar
○ Lüdinghausen	○ Castel Campagnano			<b>Cittaslow USA</b>
				○ Fairfax
				○ Sebastopol
				○ Sonoma