

Community Preservation Committee Annual Report

The Community Preservation Committee meets monthly at Town Hall and is comprised of a combination of at-large members and members representing certain existing Boards and Commissions in Norfolk, as prescribed in its bylaws. In the nine years since the adoption of the Community Preservation Act by Norfolk voters, the fund has collected about \$6.6 million, with nearly 50% of that sum coming from State matching funds. As of the end of December 2010, the fund has an unencumbered balance of nearly \$3.2 million, exclusive of the funds earmarked for projects already approved. To date, the CPC has spent or allocated approximately \$3.3 million for projects within the Town of Norfolk. These projects fall under mandated priorities: open space and recreation, affordable housing, and historic preservation.

During the past year, the CPC has reviewed funding applications and worked with various groups in town to identify opportunities to expend CPA funds for projects that are consistent with the mission of the CPA and that will have long-term benefits for the Town of Norfolk. Some highlights are as follows:

- At the fall Town Meeting, voters approved the expenditure of \$1.02 million (purchase price and acquisition costs) to acquire the 22-acre parcel known as Gump's Farm on Rockwood Road, and extending to Boardman Street, Medway Branch, and Tucker Road.
- At the spring Town Meeting, voters approved spending \$2,500 to install property bounds and descriptive signage at the Fales Memorial Park at Highland Lake (acquired in 2007 with CPA funds).
- Spring Town Meeting also voted to appropriate \$3,000 to create a 2.5-mile historical walking tour of Norfolk center via signs and a brochure.
- Town meeting voters approved \$50,000 for an Affordable Housing Assistance Program.

- A landscape architecture firm was hired to undertake a recreation feasibility study and produce conceptual drawings to identify potential public uses of the area at the old landfill and adjacent town-owned woodlands. Opportunities and constraints were determined, and a public survey was conducted to gauge interest in various activities and uses of this area.
- The Recreation Department's Town Pond project (CPA-funded) has received final regulatory approval for fishing platforms, and trail and parking lot upgrades. The platforms should be installed this year.
- The CPA-funded Norfolk Grange historic restoration continues to make slow progress, as the project ran into permitting and other delays. Interior and exterior renovations should begin this spring.
- The rehabilitation of the stone wall and sign at the Norfolk Cemetery on Main Street, funded by CPA monies, was completed.
- The CPC had discussions with several property owners in Norfolk, exploring conservation and acquisition options for their parcels.
- CPC was a member of the Community Preservation Coalition for calendar year 2010.

Please visit www.virtualnorfolk.org to view our meeting schedule and minutes along with downloadable forms for projects and applications.

We encourage people to get involved with the CPC and to bring us ideas of possible projects. We appreciate the support of the Town of Norfolk and look forward to continuing our efforts in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Community Preservation Committee