

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 ten years since the adoption of the Community Preservation Act by Norfolk voters, the fund has collected about \$8.2 million, with nearly 39% of that sum coming from State matching funds. As of the end of December 2012, the fund has an unencumbered balance of about \$3.2 million, exclusive of the funds earmarked for projects already approved. To date, the CPC has spent or allocated nearly \$5.0 million for projects within the Town of Norfolk. These projects fall under mandated priorities: open space and recreation, affordable housing, and historic preservation. In 2012 Norfolk voted to reduce the CPA surcharge to 1% from 3%, meaning that going forward, not only will Norfolk's CPA fund collect less money locally, the state match funds received will decline dramatically as well.

During the past year, the CPC 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 Norfolk. Some highlights are:

- Progress continues on the development of Gump's Farm, purchased by the Town following fall 2010 Town Meeting approval. Excluding the four house lots conveyed to the Affordable Housing Trust, the remainder of the parcel will include Kids' Place playground, community gardens, and trails. This plan was presented to the town in April at the Library, and the \$750,000 expenditure was approved at spring Town Meeting. Phase one, the parking lot and playground, should be underway in the spring of 2013.
- Town meeting voters approved a \$300,000 transfer to the Affordable Housing Trust for the creation of affordable housing in Norfolk. They also approved a \$100,000 transfer to the Trust for the construction of an affordable home at 82 Main Street.
- A historical plaque detailing present and past road structure, plus past and current locations of historical landmarks surrounding Town Hill was completed, installed on Town Hill, and unveiled to residents in a September ceremony.
- The Town Clerk recommended a project to scan and laserfiche Norfolk vital and historic records into a secure and searchable database. Fall Town Meeting approved the \$40,000 appropriation.
- Discussions with Recreation regarding the need for additional athletic fields led to the recommendation that the department undertake an Athletic Field & Park Amenities Strategic Plan, to assess recreation needs for the next decade. The \$20,000 allocation was approved by fall Town Meeting voters.
- Two historic projects were also approved at fall Town Meeting: \$17,800 to rebuild the steel door of the crypt at the Pondville Cemetery, make grading improvements and install period plantings; and \$2,100 for exterior repairs to the Tramp House on Town Hill.
- The Norfolk Grange completed the work performed with CPA monies, including septic and roof drainage systems, a small building addition, interior renovations, handicap ramp, utilities, and ADA-compliant restrooms. An official opening is expected in April 2013.
- 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 2012.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Community Preservation Committee