

## Community Preservation Committee Annual Report 2014

The Community Preservation Committee meets monthly at Town Hall and is comprised of a combination of members representing certain existing Boards and Commissions in Norfolk, and precinct and at-large representatives, as prescribed in its bylaws. Since the first year that the Community Preservation Act surcharge was collected, 2002, the Norfolk CPA fund has collected about \$8.8 million, with nearly 42% of that sum coming from State matching funds. As of the end of December 2013, the fund had an unencumbered balance of nearly \$3.4 million, exclusive of the funds earmarked for projects already approved. To date, the CPC has spent or allocated nearly \$5.5 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, but also that 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. Phase one, the parking lot and playground, is nearly complete. Site work commenced in September, and by November, the parking lot and playground structures (which represent Norfolk landmarks) and surfacing were nearly complete. Phase 2, a community garden and trails, should be constructed this year. The property has been formally named "Norfolk Community Park at Rockwood Road" by the Selectmen.
- Fall town meeting voters approved a \$200,000 transfer to the Affordable Housing Trust for the creation of affordable housing in Norfolk.
- An Athletic Field & Park Amenities Strategic Plan, to assess recreation needs for the next decade, approved at the 2012 fall town meeting (\$20,000) is nearly complete.
- Spring town meeting voters approved spending \$350,000 to construct a new playground, field, walking path, well and irrigation at the H. Olive Day school. This project was completed.
- The CPC commissioned a study of the Highland Lake dam, to assess its condition in accordance with current dam safety regulations and to provide information to assist in analyzing dam repair needs and receive recommendations for ongoing maintenance and/or restoration/reconstruction.
- Fall town meeting voters approved spending \$12,000 to create access and parking off of Main St. to the Fales Memorial Park and Highland Lake, and to create informative panels at that property, as well as City Mills and Pondville.
- The CPC worked in conjunction with Mass. Audubon to acquire the Gray property on Marshall St., which abuts existing Audubon property. Fall town meeting approved a \$46,000 expenditure which would provide a conservation restriction on the property as well as roadside parking, which will also provide parking for the nearby Lind Farm.
- A Norfolk Airport neighbors group interested in seeing the property acquired as open space initiated discussions with the CPC. These discussions are ongoing.
- 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 2013.

Please visit [www.virtualnorfolk.org](http://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