

## Community Preservation Committee Annual Report 2015

The Community Preservation Committee meets monthly at Town Hall and is comprised of nine members representing the Conservation, Historic, and Recreation Commissions, and the Housing Authority and Planning Board, as well as the three Norfolk precincts plus one at-large representative, 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 \$9.3 million, with about 40% of that sum coming from State matching funds. At 2015 year end, the fund had an unencumbered balance of \$3.2 million, exclusive of the funds earmarked for projects already approved. To date, the CPC has spent or allocated nearly \$6.1 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 Norfolk's CPA fund now collects less money locally, as well as receives significantly reduced state match funds.

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:

- CPC, with its consultant, continued the process of updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan (last updated in 1996), which was approved at the 2014 Spring Town Meeting (\$17,000). Results of a citizen survey were presented in a public session in April and input was received from town boards. Work on the draft plan continued during the year. A state-approved OSRP will allow the Town to apply for certain state grants.
- Owners of a property at 387 Main Street approached the CPC proposing sale of the 18 acre parcel to the town for open space and recreation. CPC conducted due diligence during the year and will bring the proposed purchase to spring 2016 Town Meeting.
- A formal opening for the Fales Memorial Park occurred on April 26 at the Campbell Street entrance. Meanwhile, Barbara Bartholomew of the Historic Commission coordinated the creation of parking off of Main Street to the Fales Memorial Park and Highland Lake, and most of the trail work there has been completed. Final trail work and the installation of signs and benches should be completed in 2016.
- The historical information panel for Pondville was installed at the corner of Old Pond Street and Valley Street.
- Mass. Audubon, with a contribution from CPA monies, completed the purchase of the Gray property on Marshall Street in April, with a conservation restriction being granted to the town. Future roadside parking for access to the parcel will also provide parking for the nearby Lind Farm.
- The Community Garden at the Norfolk Community Park at Rockwood Road (formerly Gump's Farm) began construction thanks to the efforts of Frank Zolli and the Norfolk Lions.
- Spring Town Meeting voters approved a \$400,000 transfer to the Affordable Housing Trust for the creation of affordable housing in Norfolk.
- Spring Town Meeting voters also approved a \$5,000 expenditure for ground penetrating radar scans at both the Norfolk and Pondville cemeteries. The project was completed in the summer and approximately 100 previously unmarked gravesites were located.
- The Norfolk Town Center Walking Tour project was revitalized and includes ten properties. Tour pamphlets and additional information on the town website will be available mid-2016.
- 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 2015.

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