

## Community Preservation Committee Annual Report 2016

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 (2002) that the Community Preservation Act surcharge was collected, the Norfolk CPA fund has collected about \$9.6 million, with about 40% of that sum coming from State matching funds. At 2016 year end, the fund had an unencumbered balance of \$2.8 million, exclusive of the funds earmarked for projects already approved. To date, the CPC has spent or allocated nearly \$6.8 million for projects within the Town of Norfolk. These projects fall under mandated priorities: open space and recreation, affordable housing, and historic preservation. In 2014 the CPA surcharge was reduced to 1% from 3% in accordance with a previous Town vote. Norfolk's CPA fund now collects less money locally, as well as receives significantly reduced state match funds, which have averaged only 26.5% since 2014.

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), approved at the 2014 Spring Town Meeting. We held a public hearing in February, the plan was submitted to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and has received approval. At year end, the plan was awaiting approval from the Mass. Department of Conservation Services (DCS). A state-approved OSRP will allow the Town to apply for certain state grants.
- Interpretive signs and benches were installed at the Fales Memorial and Highland Lake Parks.
- The Norfolk Town Center Walking Tour of ten historic properties kicked off in May, with brochures available at the Library and on the Town of Norfolk/Historic Commission website.
- The Pondville Cemetery crypt door was repaired; the rehabilitation project is complete.
- At the Community Garden at the Norfolk Community Park at Rockwood Road, garden fencing was installed, and 28 raised beds (including handicapped beds) constructed, thanks to the efforts of Frank Zolli and the Norfolk Lions, and the Norfolk Grange. The Garden will be operational in the 2017 growing season.
- Spring Town Meeting voters approved a \$25,000 transfer to the Norfolk Conservation Fund for due diligence expenses related to land acquisitions.
- Spring Town Meeting also approved the expenditure of up to \$61,500 to create a combination Cal Ripken baseball and softball field at the Freeman Kennedy School at the site of an existing baseball field.
- Spring Town Meeting voters approved a \$400,000 transfer to the Affordable Housing Trust for the creation of affordable housing in Norfolk.
- May Town Meeting approved a \$277,000 expenditure to acquire an 18-acre parcel at 387 Main Street, which surrounds Comey's Pond. Due diligence and survey work proceeded during the year, and an early 2017 closing is anticipated.
- Fall Town Meeting voters approved spending not more than \$47,000 to restore and preserve Town records primarily from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, including digital scanning.

- The CPC had discussions with several property owners in Norfolk, exploring conservation and acquisition options for their parcels, as well as conversations about other proposed projects.

Please visit [www.virtualnorfolk.org](http://www.virtualnorfolk.org) to view our meeting schedule and minutes along with downloadable forms for project 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