

Community Preservation Committee Annual Report 2017

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 nearly \$9.9 million, with about 39% of that sum coming from State matching funds. At 2017 year end, the fund had an unencumbered balance of \$3.0 million, exclusive of the funds earmarked for projects already approved. To date, the CPC has spent or allocated nearly \$6.9 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 24.8% 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:

- The Open Space and Recreation Plan (last updated in 1996), was approved by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in 2016 and by the Mass. Department of Conservation Services (DCS) in 2017. An approved OSRP allows the Town to apply for certain state grants.
- Norfolk completed the purchase, utilizing CPA funds, of 387 Main Street, an 18-acre parcel that surrounds Comey's Pond. Final surveying is complete and permanent property bounds have been set.
- The project to restore and preserve Norfolk records primarily from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, including digital scanning, approved at the 2016 Fall Town Meeting, was concluded.
- New surfacing was installed in selected areas at the H. Olive Day playground.
- The Community Garden at the Norfolk Community Park at Rockwood Road completed its first growing season, with 28 raised beds (including handicapped beds) fully subscribed.
- Voters at the 2017 Spring Town Meeting approved the expenditure of up to \$86,000 to fund a well and irrigation system for up to five athletic fields at the Freeman Kennedy School.
- The CPC had discussions with several property owners in Norfolk, exploring conservation and acquisition options for their parcels. We also had several conversations regarding historic preservation projects.

Please visit www.norfolk.ma.us 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