

Community Preservation Committee Annual Report 2018

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) 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 \$10.1 million, with about 39% of that sum coming from State matching funds. At 2018 year end, the fund had an unencumbered balance of \$2.97 million, exclusive of the funds earmarked for projects already approved. To date, the CPC has spent or allocated nearly \$7.1 million for projects within the Town of Norfolk. These projects fall under mandated priorities: open space and recreation, affordable housing, and historic preservation. In 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 18.1% since 2014.

During the past year, the CPC reviewed funding applications and worked with various groups and individuals 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 Recreation Department made progress on a well and irrigation system for up to five athletic fields at the Freeman Kennedy School. This CPA-funded project was approved by voters at the 2017 Spring Town Meeting.
- A Norfolk resident proposed the idea of a rail trail in the Pondville section of Norfolk on property that is currently privately owned. The CPC continues to investigate this project.
- The CPC has had ongoing discussions with the new owner of "The Warelands" on Boardman Street, a historically significant property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which has fallen into a state of disrepair.
- The CPC is exploring the possible acquisition of a vacant 13-acre property abutting Campbell Town Forest.
- November 2018 Town Meeting voters approved the allocation of \$60,800 from the Affordable Housing Reserve and \$250,000 from the Undesignated Reserve to the Norfolk Municipal Housing Trust for the creation of affordable housing in Norfolk.
- The CPC had discussions with several property owners in Norfolk, exploring conservation, recreation, 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