

Community Preservation Committee Annual Report

The Community Preservation Committee meets monthly at Town Hall and is comprised of a combination of at-large members and members representing certain existing Boards and Commissions in Norfolk, as prescribed in its bylaws. In the nine years since the adoption of the Community Preservation Act by Norfolk voters, the fund has collected about \$7.1 million, with nearly 43% of that sum coming from State matching funds. As of the end of December 2011, the fund has an unencumbered balance of about \$3.7 million, exclusive of the funds earmarked for projects already approved. To date, the CPC has spent or allocated approximately \$3.7 million for projects within the Town of Norfolk. These projects fall under mandated priorities: open space and recreation, affordable housing, and historic preservation.

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:

- Following the fall 2010 Town Meeting approval of the purchase of the 22-acre Gump's Farm parcel, the CPC delineated wetlands and flood zones, demolished old farm structures (at the owner's expense), performed other due diligence testing, and closed on the property. Three house lots on Boardman Street and Medway Branch were conveyed to the Municipal Housing Trust for the construction of affordable housing.
- At the spring 2011 Town Meeting, voters approved the installation of permanent bounds on the Gump's property, and voted to hire a consultant to develop a master design plan. From five prospects, we selected Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, with the goal of presenting this plan (to include Kids' Place playground, community gardens, and trails) at the spring 2012 Town Meeting.
- At the spring Town Meeting, voters approved the restoration of the Misty Meadow mural painted by Emily Jacques at the Library plus a descriptive plaque to be installed.
- Town meeting voters approved \$50,000 for an Affordable Housing Assistance Program, and a \$300,000 transfer to the Municipal Housing Trust for the creation of affordable housing in Norfolk.
- The Fales Memorial Park at Highland Lake historical plaque was completed and will be installed near the entrance to the property.
- Fall town meeting approved a plaque for Town Hill, detailing present and past road structure, plus past and current locations of historical landmarks.
- A water quality assessment of the health of Highland Lake, Bush Pond, and Town Pond was approved at fall Town Meeting.
- Due to the solar array project at the landfill and surrounding area, the CPC suspended its investigation of recreational opportunities there. Once the solar project is complete, the committee hopes to pursue walking trails and educational opportunities there.
- The Norfolk Grange completed permitting for its historic restoration, hired a new construction manager, completed septic and roof drainage systems, a small building addition, handicapped access, and began interior renovations.
- 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 2011.

Please visit 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 in 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Community Preservation Committee