

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



Front from left: George Lewis, Peggy Briggs, Gary Clayton, Jack Finigan; Rear from left: Jeff Adams., Lynn Huggins, Valarie Kinkade, Jack Clymer. Not pictured: Dave McKenna

In its fourth round of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding since adoption, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) recommended and Town Meeting subsequently approved the appropriation of \$1,352,892.54 for projects involving community housing, historic preservation, recreation and open space.

Community Housing Projects:

- Concord Housing Authority - \$500,000 to renovate and upgrade the existing Peter Bulkeley Terrace building from a shared living environment into 29 studio and one bedroom units for senior and disabled adults.
- Concord Housing Development Corporation - \$75,000 for the 1245 Elm St. Development, a joint venture with the Steinberg-Lalli Foundation which will provide affordable housing at a range of income levels.
- Town of Concord - \$12,000 to update the Planned Production Housing Plan, which is used by the Town to assess potential community housing development opportunities.

Historic Preservation Projects:

- Concord Free Public Library - \$22,500 for the restoration of selected books from the Library's Thoreau Books Collection.
- Town of Concord - \$112,500 for the restoration and reconstruction of the Monument St./ Hutchins Farm Dry Laid Stone Retaining Wall.
- Louisa May Alcott Memorial Association/Orchard

House - \$50,000 to complete Phase II of the restoration plan including structural and kitchen repairs.

- Save Our Heritage - \$100,000 for the restoration of the exterior facades of the Col. Barrett Farm House as part of the ongoing work to completely restore the nationally significant building.
- Concord Art Association - \$122,000 to make the historic John Ball House, 37 Lexington Rd. fully accessible by installing a new lift and accessible staircase.
- Town of Concord - \$47,700 for the installation of a new at-grade accessible entrance for the historic ca. 1851 Town House.
- Friends of the Performing Arts in Concord - \$8,000 to restore ten original double hung wood windows on the second floor of 51 Walden St., a Town-owned building.
- Concord Scout House, Inc. - \$25,000 to prevent further water damage by rebuilding the roof eaves and walls of the historic Concord Scout House.
- Town of Concord - \$23,000 to restore several of the original exterior architectural elements of the historic ca. 1932 West Concord Fire Station.

Open Space Projects:

- Thoreau Farm Trust - \$10,000 for the restoration of the historic farm landscape of the Thoreau Farm as a symbol of the local landscape that inspired Thoreau and the Transcendentalists.
- Open Space Reserve Fund - \$90,192.54 to be put in reserve for future Open Space projects.

Open Space/Recreation Projects:

- Town of Concord - \$125,000 to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee for the completion of reports and studies necessary for the 75% and 100% Design Plans.

Administration:

- Town of Concord - \$30,000 for CPA administration

The remainder of the CPC's year was spent reviewing prior appropriations to evaluate progress and/or final project reports and distribute CPA fund reimbursements. A significant number of large scale projects were completed. In addition, the CPC completed its annual update of the Community Preservation Plan, refined and revised its application processes, and held two informational meetings in July and September for potential applicants.

The CPC saw an increasing number of qualifying applications competing for less available CPA funds. In the current FY10 funding cycle, the CPC received thirteen applications for just over \$2.5 million in funding requests relating to all four CPA-eligible categories.



Concord Art Association renovations to improve accessibility were undertaken with CPA funds approved by Town Meeting.

Meanwhile, the estimated amount that will be available in 2010 is approximately \$1,046,000 due to an anticipated reduction in matching State funds. These monies are derived from recording fees when plans are filed at all of the Commonwealth's Registries of Deeds. Given the down turn in the State's real estate economy as well as a larger number (142) of municipalities electing to participate in the CPA program, it is not surprising that Concord's State match has declined. The CPC recommended and the Board of Selectmen endorsed their support for an amendment to the State CPA statute that seeks to clarify ambiguities in the existing statute as well as stabilize the State funding match at 75% for all participating communities.

The CPC was very pleased to announce that the West Concord Depot Restoration, a joint project between the Town and the MBTA funded with CPA funds in 2007, had been recognized with a Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Award. The Massachusetts

Historical Commission's 31st Annual Preservation Awards Program was hosted by the Secretary of the Commonwealth and honored selected projects which displayed an outstanding commitment to historic preservation in Massachusetts. The West Concord Depot project received the award for rehabilitation and restoration, which acknowledged "a commitment to historic preservation that goes well beyond what is normally expected." The building is once again a village landmark and an exciting example of how CPA funds can be used to leverage volunteer support as well as funding from available outside sources to accomplish important community and historic preservation goals.



Shown above is Congresswomen Niki Tsongas speaking at the April 17, 2009 event to celebrate the inclusion of Barrett Farm within the boundaries of the Minute Man National Historical Park. The legislation added 67 acres to the National Historical Park, and opens the door to the future purchase of the ca. 1705 property by the National Park Service. CPA funds were approved by Town Meeting in 2006, 2007, and 2009 to assist current owner Save Our Heritage, Inc., in the meticulous restoration of the property back to its 1770s appearance.