

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Select Board,

The Community Preservation Committee is pleased to submit our annual report for FY 2023. In 2020, Milton voters adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and in 2021, Town Meeting approved the establishment of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The role of the Committee is to prioritize the needs of the Town across three categories: Community Housing, Historic Preservation, and Open Space & Recreation. Funding for eligible projects comes from two sources: a surcharge on the tax levy against real property in Milton and a distribution from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund.

Working from a Community Preservation Plan that was created and published in September 2022, the Committee continued its two-step application process for interested parties to apply for CPC funding. This was the Committee's second round of funding. The first application form is used for determining a project or applicants' eligibility for funding. After a formal review process, if an applicant is deemed eligible, the successful applicant will receive an "eligibility approval letter" and is asked to move to the second stage of the application process, the funding round. This phase requires applicants to respond to any conditions that may have been included in their eligibility approval letters and to provide additional details and letters of support for their applications.

The Committee accepted Eligibility Applications until June 1, 2023. It reviewed those submissions and gave successful

applicants until September 29, 2023 to submit completed applications for funding.

The Committee is proud to report that it received twenty-two Eligibility Applications in 2023, up from fourteen the previous year. Out of the twenty-two applicants, seventeen were invited to proceed to the full application stage of the process. As a result of its meetings with the applicants, the Committee proudly recommends fourteen projects for a total of \$1,167,571 in funding at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting:

Community Housing:

- Winter Valley Expansion: The Milton Affordable Housing Trust seeks funding for an expansion of Milton Residences for the Elderly's Winter Valley site at 600 Canton Avenue. Winter Valley Residence II is a proposed 100% affordable 36-unit development meeting a critical need for affordable senior housing in Milton.

Historical Preservation:

- Blue Hill Observatory Wrought Iron Fence: The Blue Hill Observatory and Science Center seeks funding for restoration of the 1905 fence to protect and remain an elegant threshold to this 1885 National Historic Landmark property.

- Forbes Carriage House & Barn Restoration: The Forbes Museum requests phase two funding for preservation and rehabilitation of its Carriage House and Barn. Both buildings are national historic landmarks in Milton.

- Historic Burying Ground Conservation: The Milton Cemetery, established in 1672, has requested funding to

preserve important and irreplaceable cultural records of the earliest settlers of the Town of Milton and conserve the artwork of important colonial era gravestone artists for study by future generations.

- **Milton Art Center Windows:** The Milton Art Center seeks funding for a historic preservation study of the windows at 334 Edge Hill Road.

Open Space & Recreation:

- **Andrews Park Baseball Safety Improvements:** Milton American Baseball seeks funding to replace and improve existing fencing and backstop at the Andrews Park baseball diamond to enhance safety for park users.
- **Andrews Park Water Filling Station:** The East Milton Neighborhood Association seeks funding for a water bottle refilling station to reduce reliance of disposable bottled water containers.
- **Kelly Field Softball and Baseball Field Improvements:** Milton Girls Softball and Milton Babe Ruth Baseball seek funding for infrastructure improvements to Kelly Field's softball and baseball diamonds including new dugouts, proper fencing and protective shading.
- **Milton Brook Walk:** Milton resident and Town Meeting Member Jeffrey Stone seeks funding for a preliminary feasibility study to create a recreational and education path from the Blue Hills near Ulin Rink/Milton Town Forest to the Neponset River at Central Avenue following Pine Tree Brook.
- **Milton Lower Neponset Estuary Project:** The Milton Conservation Commission seeks funding for the first-phase

of a multi-year initiative for surveying, wetlands delineation and signage for an approximately 25 acre area of the Neponset River estuary on land off of Courtland Circle, Riverside Avenue, and Thistle Avenue.

- Peverly Park Playground: The Peverly Playground Planners seek funding for playground design and preparations for a new accessible play space at Peverly Park off Sumner Street.
- Popes Pond Handicapped Accessible Pathway Feasibility Study: The Milton Conservation Commission seeks funding to assess the feasibility of creating an ADA compliant pathway around Popes Pond.
- Popes Pond Trail Extension: The Milton Conservation Commission seeks funding to design, construct and install a pedestrian pathway which will connect the existing pathway on the northwest side of Popes Pond to the new pedestrian bridge at the south end of the Pond.
- Town Center Basketball Court Improvements: The Select Board seeks funding for a facelift for the basketball court at the corner of Clapp and Walnut Street including new pavement, hoops and improving site access.

The Committee is excited about the growing interest in using Community Preservation Act funds for needed projects across Milton. We invite residents, organizations and town officials to explore potential future projects with us in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Callahan, Chair
Jenny Russell, Vice-Chair

Peter Jackson, Treasurer
Theodore Carroll
Joseph Duffy, Jr.
Wendy Garpow
Kathleen O'Donnell
Cheryl Tougias
Linda Weld