

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee

Special Town Meeting - November 4, 2019

The Wrentham Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is excited to present seven projects for consideration and vote at the Special Town Meeting, that we believe can have far reaching effects touching many of the town's residents. The Community Preservation Fund collects money from a real estate tax surcharge that is then partially matched by the State of Massachusetts. By the end of the Fiscal Year in June 2020, we estimate that Wrentham will have collected approximately \$800,000 as a result of this program. The projects coming to the Special Town Meeting have applied for funds and the CPC has approved their projects for consideration at Town Meeting. The final approval for any funding is as a result of voter approval at Town Meeting.

This year we see three projects to help improve the health of three key lakes in town: Lake Pearl, Lake Archer and Mirror Lake. Each lake has its own specific needs, and as a result their own specific solution. The CPC also approved a project to enhance the local Housing Authority residential areas, restore historical Cowell paintings, and create an Open Space and Recreation plan. Having this plan makes Wrentham eligible to apply for outside grants that help us further invest in outdoor and recreation space. Finally, the CPC has approved a project request for a new playground installation at the Rice Complex. A modern accessible playground would be a focal point at the Rice Complex, and would further enhance this recreational centerpiece for the town.

The following pages include an overall project cost summary broken out by the three main cost areas, of Open Space and Recreation, Historical and Housing. A separate Undesignated Funds category is allowed to be used across any approved project.

- Wrentham Community Preservation Committee

Barry Kassler, Chairman

Mark Cuddy, Vice Chairman

Leo Immonen

Steve Langley

Alex Leonard

Scott Manchuso

Robin McDonald

Alan Richard

Chuck Woodhams

Again, by the end of the Fiscal Year in June 2020, we estimate that Wrentham will collect close to \$800,000 as a result of implementing the Community Preservation Act. That includes approximately \$250,000 in local collections each year, across three years' time and approximately \$47,000 of state matching funds. The second state match is expected in November 2019, based on local collections through June 2019.

Funding amounts for the seven proposed projects are below. Note that the playground project is recommended as a project paid for through bonding for no less than 5 years. A cost for 5-year bonding plus estimated fees and interest is used below.

Project	Recommended Funding	Open Space & Recreation	Historical	Housing	Undesignated Funds
Lake Archer Invasive Weed Project	\$45,000	\$45,000			
Preservation of Mirror Lake	\$23,000	\$23,000			
Lake Pearl Weed Control Project	\$83,000	\$9,700			\$73,300
Cowell Painting Restoration and Preservation	\$9,900		\$9,900		
Wrentham Housing Authority Improvements	\$17,000			\$16,000	\$1,000
Open Space and Recreation Plan	\$6,500	\$6,500			
Rice Complex Playground*	\$98,000 est. for 5 years (\$445,315 total project cost)				\$98,000 est.*
Annual Total with Bonding of Playground*	\$282,400	\$84,200	\$9,900	\$16,000	\$172,300
Total Project Appropriations	\$629,715				

*Assumes 5 year bonding with cost of ~10% above project cost for fees and interest.

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee - Project Overview

Applicant Name	Wrentham Recreation Commission
Project Title	Rice Complex Playground
Total Funding Amount Requested/CPA Category	\$445,315 from Open Space and Recreation

Project Summary

The Rice Complex recreation area in Wrentham has grown in popularity to become a premier recreation site in town for youth sports, and local residents to enjoy. With careful effort, and dedication to a strong vision, the complex has continued to mature with the addition of a concession stand, a sand volleyball court, and now the Recreation Commission would like to build a high quality playground on the site.

This project proposes a high quality playground that meets today's standards for quality, healthy play and accessibility for all youth. The Rice Complex sees 20,000+ visitors annually. This project continues the investment in this location and seeks to add an important feature to the location. Because of a unique opportunity, the Recreation Commission has secured a \$100,000 in-kind donation from the maker and installer of the playground equipment, Kompan, reducing the cost. The playground that is envisioned and designed is an engaging complex that allows age-appropriate play in easy view of watchful parents. The playground is designed for ages 2-12+, and would be located near the concession stand and the soccer fields. Kompan engineers and builds their playground equipment to last 20 years.



CPC Recommendation

The Community Preservation Committee recommends that the Town Meeting approve this request for \$445,315 of the Community Preservation Funds. Further, the CPC recommends that this project be bonded for no less than five years. This has the effect of lowering the immediate impact of the playground on the CPC budget, while also limiting the financing costs over time.

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee - Project Overview

Applicant Name	Wrentham Historical Commission
Project Title	Restoration and Preservation of Cowell Paintings
Total Funding Amount Requested/CPA Category	\$9,900 from Historical

Project Summary

Joseph Goss Cowell was a renowned artist, sculptor and designer who lived in Wrentham for many years. During those years, he contributed lasting works of art to the community, completing nine paintings of historic homes in Wrentham as a result of a commission from the Federal Government Works Project Administration (WPA) in the mid-1930's during the depression. His Wrentham community work didn't stop there. He designed the World War I memorial at the flagpole base in the center of town, designed the memorial to William H. Sweatt at the entrance to Sweatt Park, painted ornate altar panels at the Trinity Church, and painted a mural at the Old Fiske Museum.

This project seeks funding to restore and preserve these important paintings for future generations to enjoy. The cleaning and restoration would be done by a respected fine art restoration company that would use museum grade techniques and materials. Additionally, restoration of the frames would be a part of this project. The Wrentham Community Preservation Committee sees this body of work by a long standing contributor to the community as a valuable asset worth preserving. The Historical Commission has already paid to restore one of the paintings, and is pleased with the result. The preserved paintings will be displayed in the Old Fiske Museum for residents and future generations to enjoy.



CPC Recommendation

The Community Preservation Committee recommends that the Town Meeting approve this request for \$9,900 of the Community Preservation Funds.

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee - Project Overview

Applicant Name	Wrentham Open Space Committee
Project Title	Preparation of Wrentham Open Space and Recreation Plan
Total Funding Amount Requested/CPA Category	\$6,500 from Open Space & Recreation

Project Summary

The Wrentham Open Space Committee and the Recreation Commission are seeking to create a strategic plan that will map out how we envision using our land and open space/recreation assets into the future. The Town of Wrentham does not currently have a valid plan. A valid Open Space and Recreation Plan is required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for eligibility for funding under the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant program, and the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant program. Without such a plan, Wrentham is not eligible to seek out these grants from the State, thereby limiting outside funds for Wrentham Open Space and Recreation efforts. When the town did have a valid plan, it was able to access grants to help acquire the 90-acre site, now known as the Rice Complex, which has grown to become a heavily used, high quality recreation site for the town.

This project would commission a study to build an Open Space and Recreation Plan using an experienced and licensed consultant with the aim to guide future investments in the town and gain access to outside grant that require such a plan. The total cost of the project is \$16,400, with \$9,900 coming from the Sweatt Fund; the remaining \$6,500 is being requested from Community Preservation funding.

CPC Recommendation

The Community Preservation Committee recommends that the Town Meeting approve this request for \$6,500 of the Community Preservation Funds.

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee - Project Overview

Applicant Name	Wrentham Housing Authority
Project Title	Wrentham Housing Authority Improvements
Total Funding Amount Requested/CPA Category	\$17,000 total from Housing and Open Space

Project Summary

The Wrentham Housing Authority is dedicated to providing low-income housing to the public with preference for residents of Wrentham, The Authority provides 66 apartments for elderly and disabled residents at the Bennett Garden development and 15 apartments for families at the New Emerald Lane development. The Housing Authority does not receive funding through the Town of Wrentham. The Housing Authority does receive a nominal amount from the Commonwealth for capital expenses that is quickly used in normal upkeep of the properties. As a result of this austere approach, some areas have deteriorated.

This project envisions restoration and preservation of two fences that will allow New Emerald Lane residents play safely in a recreation space that separates the play space from the roadway. Further, a new basketball hoop would be installed to enhance the current recreation space.

CPC Recommendation

The Community Preservation Committee recommends that the Town Meeting approve this request for \$17,000 of the Community Preservation Funds.

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee - Project Overview

Applicant Name	Lake Archer Association
Project Title	Lake Archer Invasive Weed Control Project
Total Funding Amount Requested	\$45,000 from Open Space & Recreation

Project Summary

The Lake Archer Association is seeking \$45,000 to be spent over the next three years as a partial contribution towards the project's total estimated cost of \$122,000. The Lake Archer Association is coordinating the difficult task of controlling an invasive weed that thus far is limited to Lake Archer: Brazilian waterweed. This innocent looking plant was once common in household aquariums. However, its release into native waterways allowed it to take up residence and proliferate, leading to masses of the weed compromising the ecology and threatening to spread downstream, which in this case includes Lake Pearl and the Charles River Watershed.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) finds this project worthy of the town's support, as any delay in treatment will cause the problem to become more difficult to remediate. It is particularly noteworthy that the majority of the funding for this project will be provided by private contributions. Further this project does not rely on herbicides to control invasive plants. The particular method has the potential to limit the invasive species in the future, which may reduce the likelihood of continued intensive treatment.

Because Lake Archer is a key feature of the Town and a scenic touchstone for the community, the importance of its protection as a recreational resource is paramount. The funds requested will help provide three years of invasive plant control.

CPC Recommendation

The Community Preservation Committee recommends that the Town Meeting approve this request for \$45,000 of the Community Preservation Funds.

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee - Project Overview

Applicant Name	Friends of Mirror Lake
Project Title	Preservation of Mirror Lake
Total Funding Amount Requested/CPA Category	\$23,000 from Open Space & Recreation

Project Summary

A citizen group, Friends of Mirror Lake, has studied and worked to restore and preserve Mirror Lake using private donations from its 110 members. So far, with private donations, they have studied and treated the lake for weed infestation that is reducing oxygen levels to a dangerously low level in the lake. They have learned about the lake and its issues, while working to educate local residents and users of the lake who access it through the public access frontage located in Norfolk. One issue that affects the lake is stormwater runoff from surrounding roadways. There are potentially several areas where runoff flows untreated directly to the lake, through undocumented culverts.

The Friends of Mirror Lake are seeking funding for two main purposes, which include two years of weed treatment to reduce the weed load on the lake in order to maintain its usability and health. The second focus area is to commission a study of stormwater runoff in order to understand its effects on the lake health, and remediation options if they are needed.

CPC Recommendation

The Community Preservation Committee recommends that the Town Meeting approve this request for \$23,000 of the Community Preservation Funds.

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee - Project Overview

Applicant Name	Lake Pearl Study Committee
Project Title	Lake Pearl Invasive Weed Project
Total Funding Amount Requested/ CPA Category	\$83,000 from Open Space & Recreation

Project Summary

Lake Pearl is Wrentham's largest natural body of water, and it has been used by generations of residents for fishing, boating, and swimming. The continued enjoyment of Lake Pearl requires planned management to protect and preserve it. Many of these actions focus on limiting invasive species, such as including informational signage at the boat ramp, educational material given to boaters when they receive a ramp permit, regular inspections of the lake, outreach to residents bordering the lake for education and volunteer efforts.

Community Preservation Act funding is being requested to purchase a mechanical harvester (example shown on the right) to help with the lake's ecosystem and remove large quantities of weed overgrowth in several areas of the lake. This would be used in conjunction with herbicide treatments, but depending on the results, it may limit the need for some future treatments.



This project has the opportunity to reduce the dependence on herbicides, while also helping to preserve this important resource for residents to enjoy. If approved, the Lake Pearl Committee believes this equipment would be in place for summer of 2020.

CPC Recommendation

The Community Preservation Committee recommends that the Town Meeting approve this request for \$83,000 of the Community Preservation Funds.