

Community Preservation Committee Annual Report 2003

This year marks the third report to the town from the Community Preservation Committee. On January 7, 2004, an open hearing was held which allowed persons with projects to present and discuss these with the committee.

Of the three areas covered by the Community Preservation Act, Southampton has been more involved with open space than with historical preservation and with affordable housing. We feel that this is in keeping with the feedback we have received from the community.

At a Special Town Meeting in November, funding was approved for the town's share of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on the property of Myron and Julie Searle on Russellville Road. In March the paperwork to complete the project was requested by and forwarded to the Department of Agricultural Resources. At the time of the writing of this report we are waiting for this to be finalized at the state level.

We have several other open space projects we are discussing and if and when they are approved by the Community Preservation Committee will be brought to a Town Meeting for its approval.

The committee has also begun discussions on a project to preserve the historical records of the town. The records involved are the books that were handwritten beginning in the mid-1700's. We are waiting to receive a cost figure before proceeding. We feel that this project would be of great value and of great interest to the town.

Affordable housing continues to be a more difficult area for the committee. The Housing Authority has a seat on the Community Preservation Committee but no one has been named as a representative. Because Southampton has been meeting the quota for units of affordable housing set by the state, we have not been pressured in this area. However, it does remain a concern of the committee and we would welcome suggestions.

We receive project suggestions at any time during the year. Please contact any one of the committee to offer ideas. Questions are always welcomed, too.

Virginia Ahart, Chair.
Dorothy Frary, Secretary
Kurt Boisjolie
Ed Cauley
Robert Emerson
Jim Fleming
Robert Floyd
Patrick Monahan