

WEST NEWBURY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Open Space Committee met regularly during Fiscal Year 2012. This report summarizes our accomplishments from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012:

- The continued development of multiple trail networks throughout the Town. Improvements include newly constructed trails, installation of posts, trail markers and maps to promote and improve public access to town-owned land for recreational use. High profile sites include new trails in Riverbend West, connecting Coffin Street to the Indian River and Brake Hill, where over 50 people attended the 2nd Annual Trail Hike, sponsored by OSC.

- Library Exhibit: The OSC showcased it's inventory of town maps, featured trails and literature for a 2-month period as part of our community outreach effort. Special thanks to the G.A.R. Library staff for hosting the exhibit.

- CPA Handout: developed and distributed a flyer to promote the benefits of keeping the CPA tax rate at 3%. The Town voted in favor by a narrow margin.

- Continued development to OSC's website: WestNewburyOpenSpace.Net. The site includes extensive information and resources, meeting minutes, town inventory maps, trail maps, photographs and the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan – a comprehensive analysis, review and action plan.

- Consulted with various Boards on a broad range of topics, including the Board of Selectman for the Daley/Page East and Sullivan properties, the Town's Energy Advisory Committee for a proposed solar panel site and bylaw, the Planning Board and Conservation Commission regarding Ocean Meadow, DePiero, Cena and other Trail Easements.

- The OSC continued to maintain the Priority Parcel List and evaluate land for open space potential.

- The OSC welcomed it's newest member, Jason Spaulding, to the committee. Members include Felicity Beech, Don Bourquard, Jennifer Germain, Steve Greason, Barry LaCroix, Jean Lambert. Dawne Fusco and Patricia Reeser serve as associate members.

The Open Space Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the 1910 Building. We welcome the participation of anyone interested in our open space activities.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Steve Greason

Steve Greason, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



Hikers attend the Open Space Committee's 2nd Annual Trail Hike on October 15th, 2011, which featured a new trail network at Brake Hill.

Keep the CPA at 3%

in West Newbury

VOTE NO

ON YOUR BALLOT
MAY 7, 2012

WHAT IS THE CPA TAX?

- The Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a savings account. It's a "rainy day fund" that uses matching funds from the State to help towns pay for historical preservation, affordable housing, open space and recreational facilities. There are exemptions for the first \$100,000 of property value, low income and over-60 citizens to make CPA more affordable for everyone.
- Towns that contribute 3% instead of 0.5% benefit from 2nd and 3rd round funding cycles. In 2011, the State paid an \$82,000 extra for these two rounds. This is money we would not get at 0.5%.

The average household in West Newbury paid \$6,509 in property taxes in 2011. The average 3% CPA tax contribution was only \$154. This equates to just \$33 a month! Most people pay more for Netflix.

The average property tax in 2012 is projected to be \$6,742. The 3% CPA tax will be about \$160 a year, just fifty cents more a month than last year.

Source: Massachusetts Dept. of Revenue and the West Newbury Assessor's Office

A 75% RETURN ON INVESTMENT!

- Since 2006, West Newbury has raised \$1,114,497 from our 3% CPA tax contributions. The State has given us \$836,160 in matching funds.
- Where else can you earn a 75% return on investment?

Who else has raised what?	Comparison with other CPA communities:
Town of West Newbury:	\$1.95 million
Town of Groveland:	\$2.6 million
Town of Rowley:	\$4.8 million
City of Newburyport:	\$7.1 million

TAXPAYER SAVINGS: POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- 548 Towns & Cities in Massachusetts participate in the CPA program. Since CPA started in 2001, only two towns have lowered their rate: Deer in 2002 and Northfield in 2009.
- Only the Towns of West Newbury and Northfield have a CPA tax reduction on this year's election ballot.
- West Newbury has \$1,804,648 available in the CPA fund.
- The Papp School is on a historical site and needs \$745,000 for heating renovations. The CPAV seeks \$99,000 for the \$150 building.
- Applying CPA funds to these and future projects will save the town a lot of money.
- A little money now at 3% means a greater return and fewer dollars out of our pockets for projects we will have to do anyway.
- Reducing the rate to 0.5% now would be a costly and reckless decision.

The Open Space Committee distributed a flyer and spearheaded a successful grassroots effort to keep the CPA tax rate at 3% in May 2012.



Visit: westnewburyopenspace.net