

## **MEMBERS SOUGHT FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

Do you have a passion for parks, affordable housing, and historic preservation? The Town of Arlington wants your help and is now accepting applications for four open positions on the newly formed Community Preservation Committee, which will oversee the selection of projects to be recommended for funding by an estimated \$1.4 million in annual Community Preservation Act (CPA) revenues. Residents are encouraged to apply and applications must be submitted by July 10, 2015.

Arlington voters approved adoption of the CPA in November 2014. The act will raise an estimated \$1.4 million in funding annually via a tax surcharge and state funds that are designated for major public investments in open space and outdoor recreational facilities, affordable housing, and historic preservation. The Community Preservation Committee, required by the CPA, and formed by Town Meeting, is tasked with evaluating Arlington's needs in those three specific areas and making recommendations to Town Meeting on how CPA funding should be spent.

The committee consists of nine volunteers, including four members from the general public and a member from each of the following bodies: the Redevelopment Board, the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Housing Authority. The Board of Selectmen and Town Manager is currently looking to fill the four general public positions. To ensure the most qualified applicants are selected, the Board of Selectmen has formed a screening committee to review applications, and forward those recommended for interview to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager. From this group of applicants, the Chairman of the Board and the Town Manager will recommend a slate of four candidates to the Board of Selectmen for approval. This final approval is expected to occur at the Board's first meeting in September.

Committee members serve three-year terms, but initial appointments to the committee have been staggered, so therefore the Town seeks to fill one (1) one-year term position, two (2) two-year term positions, and one (1) three-year term position. Though it is ultimately the decision of the Community Preservation Committee to decide when and how often to meet, the Town expects that it will meet one to two times each month in the evening, beginning in September.

Being an effective committee member will require that you:

- Familiarize yourself with Arlington's affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space/outdoor recreation policies and needs
- Familiarize yourself with the law (Community Preservation Act, MGL Chapter 44B) that governs the committee
- Attend meetings regularly
- Foster good relations with other Town departments, boards, and commissions
- Listen to and be responsive to community feedback
- Use fairness and objectivity when making decisions

In addition, the goal of the Board of Selectmen is to create a balanced committee that includes members who:

- Come from diverse demographic backgrounds
- Represent all geographic areas of the Town
- Have financial expertise
- Have project management experience
- Are actively involved in the community