

ervation Trust as required by State legislation. The second initiative requested Town Meeting approval to authorize a long term lease on land adjacent to the Old North Bridge for the relocation of the Caesar Robbins House, a ca. 1780s home built by one of Concord's first freed slaves and an important piece of abolitionist history. Over the winter months, the CPC met with both the Drinking Gourd Project and Town Departments to assist with the advancement of the project and better understand its funding needs and goals. Both of these projects were approved at Annual Town Meeting.

The CPC undertook a final review of its completed projects and identified approximately \$45,000 in unspent CPA project funds to be reallocated for future projects. The CPC worked with the Finance Department to transfer these funds to the general CPA account over the summer for use at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting. In addition, the CPC completed its annual update of the Community Preservation Plan, refined and revised its application processes, and held two informational meetings for potential applicants.

As in previous years, the qualifying applications received by the CPC requested funding exceeding the amount of CPA funds available for distribution. In the current FY11 funding cycle, the CPC received thirteen applications, requesting over \$1.7 million for projects relating to all four CPA eligible categories. Meanwhile, the amount estimated to be available for CPA funding in 2011 is approximately \$1,380,320, an amount that includes both current CPA fund collections and funds available in the existing Open Space Reserve Account. The State matching funds are generated by filings at the Commonwealth's Registries of Deeds. Given the downturn in the State's real estate economy as well as the larger number (147) of municipalities electing to participate in the CPA program, it is not unexpected that Concord's State match declined to a projected 24%. The CPC recommended and the Board of Selectmen has endorsed its support of an amendment to the State CPA statute that seeks to clarify ambiguities in the existing statute as well as stabilize the State funding match at 75% for all participating communities. This amendment is being sponsored by the Community Preservation Coalition and received a favorable recommendation by the House Ways and Means Committee during the

last legislative session. The Coalition will be re-filing the amendment and is confident that the legislation will be passed next year.

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION



*standing from left: Sally Myers, Karen Silver, Sally Lanagan, Karen Parker; seated from left: Betsy Roosa, Sue Rettburg, Chair; Isabella Ehrlich, Sarah Mitchell
not pictured: Marta Brooks, Kevin Paulsen*

The Historic Districts Commission (HDC) is charged with “the preservation and protection of buildings, places and districts of historic or literary significance” within Concord’s six Historic Districts in Concord – the American Mile, Barrett Farm, Main Street, Monument Square/North Bridge, Church Street and Hubbardville. Established in 1960, Concord’s Historic Districts Act (Chapter 345) was one of the first such bylaws in Massachusetts, and over the last 50 years the HDC has worked diligently to preserve the Town’s unique historical and architectural character by encouraging the retention of original building materials and reviewing potential changes to ensure that they are keeping with the character of the District. As part of the process, the HDC regularly reviews requests for Certificates of Appropriateness for changes to exterior features which are visible from the public way.

The Commission continued its work to update the Historic Districts Guidelines.

The Historic Districts Commission held 21 regular public hearings on 91 applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. The Commission issued 94 Certificates of Appropriateness. Four of these Certificates of Appropriateness were for extensions of previous approvals. Six applications were denied and eight were withdrawn. Nine group site visits were held and several individual site visits were made. No appeals were filed.

HDC applications by category (A single application may involve several categories.)	
A/C equipment/propane tank screening	4
Addition	3
Awnings	3
Bike Racks	2
Cellular antennas and cable runs	2
Chimneys/chimney cap	4
Cornice details and trim	2
Demolition	1
Driveway/walkway/steps/entrance	16
Exterior alteration	6
Garage/ garage door	4
Gas canopy	2
House relocation	1
Landscape features	5
Lighting	15
Mailbox	1
New construction/reconstruction	8
Paint color	7
Pavement	7
Porch/deck/railings	7
Roof/gutters/downspouts/ flashing	14
Sidewalk furniture	17
Sidewalk/ramp	3
Storage shed	1
Signage	13
Treehouse	1
Walls/fences	16
Weathervane	1
Windows/doors	12

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Nancy H. Butman, Chair
 Annette Bagley
 David Hupper
 Valarie Kinkade
 Holly Larner
 Barbara Lynn-Davis, Associate

Caesar Robbins House

At Town Meeting, residents of Concord voted to support the Community Preservation Act application of the Drinking Gourd Project (DGP) for funds to restore this historic house; they also authorized the Town Manager to enter into a lease for use of a Town-owned parcel of land near the Old North Bridge. The enthusiastic support of the Town for the preservation and restoration of this house was the high point of the Historical Commission's year. We continue to work with the DGP to provide support for their efforts to move the house to its new location.

Hangar 24 at Bedford-Hanscom Field

The Commission presented our position in opposition to the demolition of Hangar 24 at a public meeting at Hanscom Field. In attendance at that meeting were various elected officials as well as a representative from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. As a direct result of that Hearing, Nancy Butman, representing the Commission, and Nancy Nelson, from Minuteman National Historical Park were able to meet with Brona Simon, the State Historic Preservation Officer, at MHC. We were, however, unable to persuade her not to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Massachusetts Port Authority. The memorandum was signed in June. In August, the Commission was asked to participate as co-appellant in an appeal of the FAA decision to permit the demolition of Hangar 24. After discussion with the Town Manager and Town Counsel and assurances that no cost of the appeal would be borne by the Town, the Commission agreed to participate in the appeal. That appeal is still pending.

Historic Resources Master Plan

Substantial progress has been made in up-dating and digitizing the Master Plan Inventory Forms. This is a critical first step to making this resource available to the public on-line. Individual Inventory Forms will also be linked to the Concord's GIS system and will be accompanied by an up-dated digital photograph. The photographs will also appear on MACRIS--the database of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Historical Commission is grateful for the volunteer assistance of photographer Tom Bagley, a senior at CCHS, for his help with this project. We are also indebted to the Planning Division MassPort intern, Amelia Armitage for her help scanning the inventory forms and to Francesca Ranciman, the Town GIS intern, who has assisted in that phase of the project.

Community Preservation Act Applications

Five applications for CPA funds were related to historic preservation. The review of these applications always provides a wonderful opportunity for the Commission to hear about the preservation plans and efforts being made by so many groups in Concord. This year presentations were made to us by four of the five applicants -- all of them very worthy and interesting projects. Participa-