

COLCHESTER LIONS CHARITIES, INC.

DONATION REQUEST APPLICATION FORM

(All information must be filled in completely for this request to be considered. Please attach additional sheets if needed to supply all your information. Completed Donation Request Application Forms must be returned to Colchester Lions Club, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415, and must be received by March 15, 2024 to be eligible for consideration.)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Name of Organization: Norton Park Committee, Town of Colchester CT

B. Address: 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415

C. Name of Contacts: Kevin Byrne email: KevByrneCT@gmail.com

D. Telephone: Kevin Byrne 860-319-7012

E. Fax (if available): Not available

F. Governing Board: Please attach the name, address and telephone number of the president of your organization. For officers and directors/board members, please provide their names, as well as the town and state where each one lives.
Committee Members:

Robert Misbach, Committee Chairman, Colchester CT

Nan Wasniewski, Committee Vice Chairwoman, Colchester, CT

Kevin Byrne, Committee Member, Colchester CT

Patrick Reading, Committee Member, Colchester CT

Julianna Cameron, Alternate Committee Member, Colchester CT

Linda Pasternak, Alternate Committee Member, Colchester CT

Art Shiloski, Committee Liaison, Board of Selectmen

2. ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE:

A. What is the primary purpose of your group or organization?

On August 15, 2019, the Norton Park Committee was formed by the Town of Colchester to establish Colchester's newest park at the site of the former C. H. Norton Paper Mill and houses in North Westchester at 139 and 129 Westchester Road, Colchester CT. The location is at the intersection of Route 149/Westchester Road and

Paper Mill Road and along the Jeremy River. The park will be a total of 6.4 acres (mill area: 3.9 acres, house areas: 2.5 acres).

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B. Please describe your organization, along with a brief statement of its history and accomplishments.

The Town of Colchester has established the Norton Park Committee to design and build a new park at the site of the C.H. Norton Paper Mill and two former homes. This site has historical significance because it was one of the first water rights granted by King George in 1725 in the colonies. Numerous commercial enterprises were established along the Jeremy River in the 1700's and early 1800's, which gave rise to the village of North Westchester. The Norton Paper Mill was commercially active at the site from 1886 through 1958.

In April 2016, Nan Wasniewski sold the first two properties to the town of Colchester for \$1.00 with the stipulation that a park be built on the site. In February 2021, Nan Wasniewski sold a third parcel (129 Westchester Road) to the town again for \$1.00 with the same terms as the first sale. The Town of Colchester has sought grants for the demolition of the mill and remediation of the property. The original dam on the Jeremy River, built over 300 years ago and replaced in the 1800's, was removed in 2016 through the work of numerous agencies and environmental organizations through various grants.

C. What is the geographical scope of your (parent) organization?

The Norton Park Committee is a temporary committee under the Town of Colchester and will be disbanded once the park is established. The Norton Park Committee is charged with the development of a design plan with input from the Public Works Director, community and Board of Selectmen. This plan may include signage, plaques and land markers

3. AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED: \$500.00

4. PURPOSE

A. How would you classify what this donation would be used for?

We will again use this donation for the main entrance sign. The final design is still undecided, but we envision a large wooden sign which will be several thousand dollars.

Now please describe your goal/objective of the above:

Our goal is to provide a safe public access point for the community to enjoy the new Norton Park as an open space park (phase 1), which will only occur after mill site remediation and some basic work by the town is completed. The park committee has been helping the town resolve final remediation issues wherever possible. We are now planning to develop the northern portion of the park the is unaffected by the remediation delays.

B. Specifically, describe your planned event, program, or project by including a written project plan and expense projection.

We are looking for assistance to purchase a sign for the main entrance. The final design has not been voted on nor approved, but our current park design illustration is shown on the following web page:

<https://www.colchesterct.gov/norton-park-committee>

We expect the sign will be wooden and cost several thousand dollars.

C. What age group in Colchester specifically would benefit?

All age groups benefit from access to open space for relaxation and recreation, including fishing and other passive forms of recreation.

D. How many residents in the community of Colchester would benefit?

All Colchester residents would benefit from this new riverside park as well as the many visitors who come to Colchester via Airline Trail. Plans for Norton Park will include improvement to the sidewalks along the Rte.149/Westchester Road to Paper Mill Road. We hope this will include pedestrian/bicycle crossing signage, This will provide hikers and bicyclists a safe route to the park from the nearby Airline Trail.

E. What is the focus of the event or program?

The Norton Park Committee intends to work with the Town of Colchester and begin developing the northern section of the park which is unaffected by the remediation delays. Development and fundraising (grants, donations, fundraising campaign) would continue until remediation is complete and we develop the southern portion of the park. (see preliminary conceptual plan).

5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A. Do you have other sources of support/income for this event, program, or project? If yes, please specify names of sources and amounts contributed.

The Town of Colchester awarded the Norton Park committee a \$142,000 ARPA grant to complete phase 1 of the project. The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut has awarded a \$15,000 grant to also support Phase 1. Of course, the Colchester Lions Club has graciously supported us over the past several years throughout these delays,

In addition, we are offering engraved commemorative items which will be included in phase 2 of the park. To date, we have received \$47,986 in donations. We have spent \$568 to promote the park and do certain fundraising activities - such as our “Let the Fish Swim” painting fundraiser. We also receive in kind contributions from citizens who help promote the park.

- B. Are you a tax-exempt organization? Volunteer committee under municipality
- C. Are you a non-profit organization? Volunteer committee under municipality
- D. Please submit an annual budget, up-to-date profit and loss statement or treasurers report so we can review your financial information. (Newly formed organizations with no previous financial history need to submit a **projected** budget.)

The construction of the park can not begin until remediation of the mill site is complete. This task is not handled by the park committee and the town has experienced unforeseen issues related to this remediation. The committee can not provide an actual date that construction will begin. We know the town is pursuing the final remediation steps with a priority. The committee sought help from our state senator and representative, which resulted in a \$500,000 state bonding grant for “the development of Norton Park”. The town also recently received a DEEP grant of \$250,000, We expect that both of these grants will be used for remediation.

The Norton Park Committee has developed a conceptual plan for the new riverside park which can be viewed at the following page:

<https://www.colchesterct.gov/parks-facilities/pages/norton-park>

Thank you for your consideration,

Kevin Byrne
Norton Park Committee members, Town of Colchester

March 14, 2024