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Conway CPA chair to be honored

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CONWAY — Janet Chayes, chair of the town Community Preservation Act Committee, has been chosen as one of 10 Community Preservation Heroes for this year's Kuehn Community Preservation Award.

She will be honored at the State House's Great Hall on Jan. 14 at 10:30 a.m.

The program will honor the 10 individuals who have been significant contributors to the success of CPA, and whose work best exemplifies the spirit of Robert Kuehn, the former Community Preservation Coalition Steering Committee member who helped draft and pass the CPA in 2000 and served as vice chair of the steering committee until his death in 2006.

Since the town adopted the CPA in 2004, Chayes has served on the committee. In 2010, she became chair. Before that in 2002, she volunteered for the study committee to analyze the CPA.

"These projects are very valuable to our community," Chayes said. "They would not have happened without CPA funds."

The program is significant, Chayes said, because the money is local and the townspeople get to choose the projects on which it is spent.

The CPA Fund is supported by a surtax on local property taxes that can be used for recreation, housing and historic preservation projects.

Significant projects over the years that utilized CPA funds include \$4,900 for a headstone inventory of town cemeteries, \$100,00 for preservation and repair work of the historic United Congregational Church, \$123,000 for preservation of the local swimming pool and \$31,000 for land preservation for Natural Roots Farm.

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