

ANTHONY ANTONELLIS
Recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award

Each year, the John J. Cronin Public Service Award committee awards this high honor to an individual who has served the Town of Westwood. John J. Cronin, Town Treasurer, for many years selflessly gave of his time and expertise for the betterment of the community, both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. To recognize this same spirit of community involvement as illustrated by John Cronin's life, it is with great pleasure that we have chosen Anthony Antonellis as the twelfth recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.

Tony has displayed devoted dedication and commitment to the Town of Westwood through his service on numerous Town boards and organizations and has made valuable contributions to the Westwood Community and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Tony is a born and raised Westwood resident who graduated from Westwood High School in 1982. While attending Westwood High, Tony was Vice President of his class and a distinguished athlete in both football and baseball. Tony went on to Wesleyan University in Connecticut where he continued his football career. To this day he remains an active alumnus to the University where two of his sons now attend. Tony continued his education at Suffolk Law School and graduated in 1990. He then joined the JAG Corps of the Navy, where he had four years of trial experience; first in Norfolk Virginia, and later in Brunswick, Maine. In 1995, Tony accepted a position at Sloan & Walsh in Boston, where he has been employed for the last 19 years. Tony lives in Westwood with his wife Mary Anne and their three boys, Anthony, Nicholas and Joseph.

For more than 19 years, Tony has been involved in some fashion of government in the Town of Westwood. Tony was appointed to the Westwood Historical Commission in 1995 where he was able to follow his passion for historical preservation using his college degree in History. In 1997 when he was elected to his first of four terms to the Board of Selectmen, he served as Chairman in 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2006.

Under his Chairmanship in 1997, Tony established the Organization of the Preservation of the Environment and Nature (also known as OPEN), and served as the Selectman's representative to it. OPEN was formed by the Board of Selectmen with several purposes: to promote the purchase of Lowell Woods, to educate the Town about the importance of open space preservation, to identify other conservation opportunities and to help raise funds for pending projects. OPEN is now known as the Westwood Land Trust which is still highly successful.

In keeping with his love for sports, Tony improved the Town's athletic facilities with the installation of artificial turf fields throughout town, as well as new lights at Morrison Park and the High School stadium field. He continues to support the long standing tradition of Pop Warner Football, coaching from 1999 to 2011 and bringing the team to three super bowls and the New England championship round. Tony also played a vital role in the establishment of the highly successful Middle School Football program.

In 1997, Tony supported the funding and construction of the Westwood Senior Center. This newly constructed center provided a valuable space for programs dedicated to Westwood seniors, along with a local food pantry that serves the entire Westwood community. In that same year, the Board of Selectmen established the Senior Tax Work Off Program, where seniors have the opportunity to volunteer in various municipal and school departments in lieu of paying a portion of their real estate property tax. This program has proven to be a successful benefit to the Westwood seniors.

Tony was also heavily involved in the acquisition of the Islington Community Church, which became the Islington Community Center and currently houses the Westwood Youth & Family Services Department and various Recreation programs. Since this space was acquired, the Youth & Family Services department has been able to offer more programs and services to the Westwood community.

Over the course of his terms as Selectman, Tony also oversaw the relocation of the Obed Baker House and the construction of a replica affordable housing unit at 1009 High Street in its place. He also oversaw the recruitment and appointment of Police Chief William Chase, DPW Director Timothy Walsh and Human Resources Director Mary Beth Bernard among other municipal staff and participated in the negotiation of the Development Agreement for the Westwood Station Project.

In 2006, while serving as a Selectman, Tony ran for and was elected to the Sewer Commission, where he continues to serve today. During his Chairmanship from 2006 to 2011, Tony oversaw many projects including the maintenance of 87 miles of sewer main, the rehabilitation of 3,000 feet of 20 inch transmission line with lining insertion (eliminating thousands of gallons of infiltration, the implementation of the Second Meter Reader Policy to improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of the program, and the completion of the study to prioritize lining and manhole repair.

In 2008, Tony was elected as the Town Moderator. Tony oversaw seven Town Meetings, three Special Town Meetings and one Fall Town Meeting. He worked closely each year with the Town Clerk on Annual Town Meeting preparation and articles. He communicated with Town Counsel and Assistant Town Moderator in preparing for and during Town Meeting to ensure Town Meeting process was conducted appropriately; reinvigorated and appointed members to the Personnel Board, Finance and Warrant Commission and Permanent Building Committee; worked closely with the Government Charter Review Task Force for the review and recommended changes to the Town's Charter and worked closely with the Board of Selectmen and the Town Bylaw Review Committee on suggested revisions to the bylaws.

On behalf of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee, it is with great pleasure that we present this prestigious award to Anthony Antonellis and we add his name to the plaque displayed in Town Hall listing all previously honored individuals.