

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

What is the Community Preservation ACT (CPA) (M.G.L. Chapter 44B)?

- Dedicated funding for: Open Space, Historic, Affordable Housing, Recreation
- State revenue is collected from every real estate deed transfer in Massachusetts
- Local CPA funds are matched by the state revenues

How has the State contributed to Sturbridge's CPA fund?

- Since 2002, Sturbridge has received \$3,888,094.00 from the State
- In 2019, Sturbridge received \$218,042.00 from the State (**a 44% match**)

The Community Preservation Coalition hosts the website www.communitypreservation.org, which offers valuable information regarding the CPA.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) presented the following articles to the voters at the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

- Administrative Funds - \$22,000 -- Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- FY20 Debt Payments - \$262,932 -- Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- Gravestone Restoration - \$9,500 -- Historic Fund Balance (passed)
- Comprehensive Housing Study - \$22,500 -- Housing Fund Balance (passed)
- Riverland Development and General Trail Improvement - \$30,350 -- Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- Town Cemetery Signs - \$1,000 -- Historic Fund Balance (passed)
- Grand Trunk Trail Central Section Feasibility Design Study - \$16,650 -- Open Space Fund Balance (passed)
- OSV Easement Costs for Grand Trunk Trail Easement - \$5,000 -- Open Space Fund Balance (passed)

The CPC began planning for their next Community Needs Study, which will take place after the winter season. The Chair will send information to various Boards and Committees, to include them early in the process. All residents are encouraged to attend the public hearing and share their ideas for use of CPA funds.

The CPC welcomed two new member to the Committee. Jeff Adams, the Planning Board representative and Dane Labonte, a member-at-large. We also welcomed Joanne Everson, who serves the role as CPC Clerk.

We sadly accepted Heather Hart's resignation, as she moved away. We thank Heather for the many years she served on the CPC, always paying close attention to the details, with a positive approach. Heather would often bring her home baked cookies, to the delight of all those in attendance. We will miss Heather and wish her well in her new community.

CPA projects and proposals can come from interested citizens, land owners, various committees and Town boards. Any proposal submitted to the CPC is given full recognition and is studied carefully. Proposals accepted by the CPC are brought forward to the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and ultimately the Town Meeting voters. The CPC encourages all to attend our meetings, which are posted on the Town website.

Respectfully Submitted, Penny Dumas; Chair, Ed Goodwin; Vice Chair, Kelly Emrich, Kadion Philips, Barbara Search, Ed Neal, Jeff Adams and Dane LaBonte