

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE 2020 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 \$4,166,662.00 from the State
- In 2020, Sturbridge received \$278,568.00 CPA Funds from the State (52.2% 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 **January 27, 2020 Special Town Meeting:**

- Construction of a single-family dwelling on property located at 226 Cedar Street and acquisition of a permanent restriction in such property preserving its use for affordable housing - \$201,756.00 — Housing Fund Balance (passed)
- Purchase/install storm windows at Center Office Building to protect the historic windows (this amount covers a short fall of the project passed in 2018- \$2,600.00 — Historic Fund Balance

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) presented the following articles to the voters at the **June 29, 2020 Annual Town Meeting:**

- Administrative Funds - \$20,000.00 -- Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- FY20 Debt Payments - \$259,007.00 -- Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- Gravestone Restoration - \$9,500 -- Historic Fund Balance (passed)
- Town hall storm windows - \$17,600.00 -- Historic Fund Balance (passed)
- Riverland recreational trail construction - \$25,000.00 -- Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- Recreational trails masterplan update - \$10,500.00 Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- Recreational trail work on the Leadmine Parcel and restoration of the Burgess Discovery Trail - \$8,000.00— Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- Signage, materials and labor for trail construction on Community Preservation Act purchased parcels - \$4,500.00 — Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- Property boundary delineation on the CPA purchased Long Pond Parcel - \$4,070.00 — Open Space Fund Balance (passed)
- Outbuilding removal of the Leadmine Barn, three outbuildings on the Leadmine parcel, and the Heins Cabin - \$164,890.00 — Undesignated Fund Balance (passed)
- Library window restoration - \$35,850.00 — Historic Fund Balance (passed)
- Restoration of three historic portraits by William Willard located at the Joshua Hyde Library = \$5,000.00 - Historic Fund Balance (passed)

Due to Covid-19, the CPC tabled planning for the next Community Needs Study. In January, the Chair sent information to various Boards and Committees, to include them in the process. It is our goal to continue planning, once we can invite the public to attend informational meetings at Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend the public hearing and share their ideas for use of CPA funds.

Summary

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.

2020 CPC Members: Penny Dumas; Chair, Edward Goodwin; Vice Chair, Kelly Emrich, Kadion Philips, Barbara Search , Edward Neal, Jeff Adams

Respectfully Submitted, Penny Dumas