

## **Community Preservation Committee**

The Community Preservation Act (the “CPA”, MGL Chapter 44B) is statewide enabling legislation allowing cities and towns in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to adopt a property tax surcharge for purposes of creating a Community Preservation Fund. Sudbury adopted the CPA at the 2001 Annual Town Meeting and at a Town Election in March 2002.

Consistent with the requirements of the CPA and with a bylaw adopted at the 2002 Annual Town Meeting, the Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) was formed to study the needs, possibilities and resources of the Town regarding community preservation. The CPC, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, includes nine standing members, with representatives from the town’s Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Park and Recreation Commission, Housing Authority, Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and two at-large citizen members. The CPC is staffed by Jody Kablack, Town Planner.

FY03 is the first year of the CPA surcharge in Sudbury. Beginning in FY04, revenues from this surcharge, currently estimated at \$900,000 (plus state matching funds, if any), are to be used for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; creation, preservation and support of community housing; and the rehabilitation or restoration of such open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created through the CPA.

There are minimum funding requirements of 10% in each of three core project areas: open space, historic resources and community housing. The balance of revenues collected can be spent on any combination of the three core areas, plus recreation. In addition, the CPA allows up to 5% of revenues to be earmarked for administrative costs. Any funds not appropriated for specific projects in any one year maybe reserved for use in future years. Reserved revenues may

include the 10% minimum funding requirements, but those reservations must be reserved on a project area specific basis. For example funds reserved under the 10% minimum funding requirement for historic resources may only be reserved for future historic resource projects.

In order to commence a review of CPA-eligible projects, the CPC issued a Report in early October, outlining the goals and objectives of the CPA, and instituting general and project area- specific criteria for project proposals. The report is available on the Town's website, by highlighting the CPC under the "Committee" heading.

Shortly after issuance of the Report, a Request for Proposals was distributed throughout the Town, with advertisement on local media. A total of twelve proposal responses were accepted by the CPC through October 30. Hearings were conducted on October 17, October 30 and November 7 on each of the proposal responses. Four of the project proposals were selected as finalists for discussion at a Public Forum on December 4.

The CPC's final determination regarding the proposal finalists, and development of a proposed budget for appropriations in FY04, has been based upon comment and deliberation at the Public Forum on December 4. The final project list and budget will be presented in the form of a Warrant Article for discussion at the Annual Town Meeting in April.

Community Preservation Committee:

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Mark A. Kablack, Co-Chair

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Sigrid L. Pickering, Co-Chair

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Kirsten D. Roopenian

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Judith H. Sheldon

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Carole R. Wolfe

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Christopher Morely

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Paul Griffin

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Steven J. Swanger

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Sheila A. Stewart