

Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) is in its seventh year of reviewing proposals for funding under the Community Preservation Act (“CPA” or “Act”, MGL Chapter 44B). Under the Act, funds may 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. The CPC, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, includes nine standing members, with representatives from the Town’s Conservation Commission, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Planning Board, Park and Recreation Commission, Board of Selectmen, and two at-large citizen members. The CPC is supported by Jody Kablack, Director of Planning and Community Development, and has been staffed by part-time assistance from the Planning Office.

At the 2008 Annual Town Meeting, projects were presented in the areas of historic preservation (Stearn’s Mill Dam Evaluation, Florence Hosmer’s painting appraisals, Town Hall window restoration, Town Clerk document preservation and Military Training Field archaeology survey), recreation opportunities (walkway construction, part of CSX railroad corridor purchase), and creation of affordable community housing (funding for Sudbury Housing Trust and the Sudbury Housing Authority unit replacements). The CPC’s largest project to date, the Nobscot Scout Reservation purchase of a conservation restriction on 303 acres of land, passed Town Meeting overwhelmingly. The total face value cost of all projects approved at the 2008 Town Meeting was approximately \$9,645,000 (including the full price of the land purchases, which will be bonded). In addition, debt service expenses of \$690,072 for prior projects and \$195,000 for administrative and operational needs of the CPC for FY09, were appropriated.

The CPA funds raised in FY08 through the local tax surcharge equaled \$1,355,512. The Town received a 71% FY08 match in October, 2008 from the state CPA trust fund, bringing total revenues to \$2,321,410. The decrease in state match was not unexpected, due to dwindling reserves in the state CPA fund caused by the downturn in the housing market. The CPC expects a similar revenue stream from the local surcharge in the coming year, but significantly lower state matching funds for FY10. The Sudbury CPC supports pending legislation which guarantees state matching funds at 75% local revenues using higher fees at the Registry of Deeds. Monies not appropriated have accumulated, and our unreserved fund balance at the end of 2008 is approximately \$6.4 million.

CPA funded projects that are underway around Sudbury include the reconstruction of the Hearse House in the town center adjacent to the Revolutionary War Cemetery, interior restoration of the Hosmer House, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Wildlife Study, and the Willis Road walkway construction. Look for the new signs noting “Sudbury Community Preservation Funds at Work”.

2008 brought one change to the Committee membership. Tara Nolan Reed, CPC co-chair and at-large member, stepped down, and was replaced by Lynne Remington. We thank Tara for her service and thoughtful contributions to the CPC.

Christopher Morely, Planning Board, Chair

Lynne Remington, At-large Member

Seamus O'Kelley, At-large Member

John C. Drobinski, Selectmen

Richard Bell, Conservation Commission

James A. Hill, Historic Commission

Georgette P. Heerwagen, Park and Recreation Commission

Sherrill Cline, Housing Authority

Sheila A. Stewart, Finance Committee