

## Community Preservation Committee 2010

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is in its ninth 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, recreation land and community housing that is acquired or created through the CPA. The CPC includes nine standing members, with representatives from the Town's Conservation Commission, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, and two at-large citizen members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The CPC is supported by Jody Kablack, Director of Planning and Community Development, and by part-time assistance from the Planning Office.

The CPA funds raised in FY10 through the local tax surcharge equaled \$1,471,024. For FY10 the Town also received \$539,676 in October 2009, a 37% revenue match from the state CPA trust fund, and interest earnings of \$183,267, bringing total FY10 revenues to \$2,193,967. This decreasing state match has been anticipated, and is due to dwindling reserves in the state CPA trust fund caused by the downturn in the housing market, along with incremental increases in the number of communities adopting the Community Preservation Act. While there are reasons to believe that the state match will increase in future years as the real estate market rebounds, the CPC continues to forecast conservatively and strives to approve a balanced project budget.

At the 2010 Annual Town Meeting, projects were presented in the areas of historic preservation (tomb door restoration, Revolutionary War cemetery survey and upgrade of the vault in the Town Clerk's office), recreation and open space opportunities (walkway construction), and the creation of affordable community housing (funding for the Sudbury Housing Trust). The total face value cost of all projects approved at the 2010 Town Meeting was \$497,795. In addition, debt service expenses of \$1,052,035 for prior land acquisition projects and \$80,000 for administrative and operational needs of the CPC for FY11 were appropriated, bringing the total anticipated expenditures for FY11 to \$1,629,830.

Sudbury CPA monies held in reserve for future land acquisition and other projects have accumulated, and the unreserved fund balance at the end of fiscal year 2010 was approximately \$7.2 million.

Voters at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting voted to keep the CPA surcharge at 3%, and not reduce it to 1.5% as recommended in a petition article.

CPA funded projects that are underway or have recently been completed around Sudbury include restoration of historic Town Clerk documents, restoration of vandalized tomb doors at the Old Town and Wadsworth cemeteries, appraisal of the collection of Florence Hosmer paintings owned by the Town, and construction of a walkway along North Road. When there are projects happening, look for our signs noting "Sudbury Community Preservation Funds at Work."

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Christopher Morely, Planning Board, Chair

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Lynne H. Remington, At-large Member

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Seamus O'Kelly, At-large Member

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John C. Drobinski, Selectmen

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Richard O. Bell, Conservation Commission

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James A. Hill, Historical Commission

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Georgette P. Heerwagen, Park and Recreation Commission

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Sherrill P. Cline, Housing Authority

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William Kneeland, Finance Committee