

## **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND GENERAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS**

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Community Preservation Act funds, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for the FY15 Community Preservation Act budget; or act on anything relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT: This article sets forth the entire FY15 CPA budget, including appropriations and reservations as required in connection with the administration of the CPA funds. The article appropriates funds for FY15 debt service obligations totaling \$1,217,635. These obligations arise from prior town meeting approval for the bonding of four projects: 1) purchase of the Dickson property utilizing the Open Space (\$38,745) and Historic Preservation (\$24,896) categories; 2) purchase of land and development rights as well as construction of a sports field on the Cutting property utilizing the Open Space (\$219,550) and Recreation (\$28,008) categories; 3) purchase of the Libby property utilizing the Open Space category (\$172,563); 4) purchase of development rights on the Nobscot Boy Scout Reservation phases I and II utilizing the Open Space category (\$524,075); and 6) purchase of development rights on Pantry Brook Farm utilizing the Open Space category (\$209,798).

The article also appropriates funds for administrative and operational expenses of the CPC in the amount of \$80,000. The administrative fund can be used by the CPC to pay for technical staffing and expertise, consulting services (e.g. land surveys and engineering), property appraisals, legal advertisements, publication fees and other administrative expenses. By statute the CPC can budget up to five percent (5%) of its annual budget for administrative expenses, or \$101,250 based upon the revenue projection of \$2,025,000 in FY15. Any funds remaining in the administrative account at fiscal yearend revert back to the CPA Fund Balance, as they have for the past seven years, and need to be re-appropriated for administrative use in subsequent years. The CPC believes that having access to administrative funds is critically important, in that it allows it to conduct business on a time-sensitive basis - a vital component of the CPA.

The article may also reserve the requisite statutory minimum of ten percent (10%) of the CPA budget in each of the core CPA categories of Open Space, Community Housing and Historic Preservation. This minimum is mandated by the state CPA statute, and funds not spent in each of these three core categories must be reserved for future expenditure in those same categories. The actual amount reserved each year depends upon whether or not that Town Meeting has appropriated money totaling less than 10%, or not appropriated any money at all, in any of these three core categories. If there is a balance of unspent CPA funds from that fiscal year after such reservations and after Town Meeting has voted the CPA articles, it is budgeted in the unrestricted reserve account for future CPC projects in all three categories.