COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Community Preservation Act was adopted by the Town of Hampden in 2001. The law allows communities to establish up to a three percent surcharge on their property taxes. Hampden has a one percent surcharge (exclusion: $100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property). The money must be spent on open space, historical resources and community housing. The state will provide a minimum of five percent up to a maximum of one hundred percent of the amount raised through this surcharge in matching funds each year. The law requires the establishment of a Community Preservation Committee.

The Community Preservation Committee meetings are posted with the town clerk at the Town Hall and are open to the public.

The Committee consists of nine members. The town moderator appointed two members: Dorothy Kibbe and John M. Flynn. Two members were appointed by the Selectman: Douglas Boyd and Robert (Bob) Burger. There are five other members who are representatives from the following groups: Housing Authority, Cecelia Melville; Historical Commission, Noreen Couture; Planning Board, John D. Flynn; Park Commission, Jim Morris; Conservation Commission, Shelia Thompson.

The Community Preservation Committee studies the needs, possibilities and resources of the town regarding community preservation. It makes annual recommendations (at Town Meeting) on how Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds collected by the town and State Matching Funds could be spent. For fiscal year 2002, CPA funds collected by the town = $21,766.69. State matching funds received = $22,955.00 (based on accessed value). Total monies = $44,721.69, minus $20,000.00 allocation for **open space**, and $5,000.00 for one time **historical resource** allocation equals a **rollover balance** of $19,721.69.

This year, as per the committee's recommendations and voter approval, the following allocations have been made.

MONIES ALLOCATED 2002

OPEN SPACE: $100,000.00 [$20,000.00 annually for five years, towards the purchase of land on Minnechaug Mountain (166 acres, more or less).] *

HISTORICAL RESOURCES: $5,000.00 – once, this year only for the gravestone conservation and restoration at Old Cemetery, Chapin Road.

COMMUNITY HOUSING: No commitments – ten percent has been set aside for future use.

* Note: This allocation is dependent upon the finalization of Minnechaug Mountain purchase.

The Committee's first annual public hearing was held on October 22, 2002 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall in the auditorium.

Public input is not only welcome, but also encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Kibbe, Chairman