

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Town of Hampden adopted the Community Preservation Act in 2001. Although the law allows up to a 3% surcharge on property taxes (the first \$100,000 valuation on residential property being exempt), Hampden voted the minimum of a 1% surcharge for CPA funds. These local funds are augmented by up to 100% with State matching funds. Although we have received full matching funds for the past three years, it is likely the percentage state contribution will be reduced in the future as more communities adopt the CPA. The monies collected by this surcharge may only be used only for Open Space, Historic Preservation, Affordable Housing and limited Recreational Use.

Pursuant to the requirements of the law, the Community Preservation committee is comprised of representatives of the following committees: Planning Board, Housing Authority, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, as well as Members at Large.

The Community Preservation Committee review and assesses each request for CPA funds to assure that criteria for each category are met. Only after the Committee has approved the application(s) for funds will the recommendation be made for the Town Meeting. The voters at Town Meeting make the final decision for appropriation of CPA funds.

In 2004 (per the committee's recommendation and voter approval) the following proposals were approved:

OPEN SPACE	\$20,000 to the Hampden Land Trust
HISTORIC PRESERVATION	\$4,500 for continued gravestone restoration and repairs to the Old Cemetery.
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	No commitments – 10% set aside for future use.

Applications for CPA Funds are available at the Town Offices or cpa@hampden.org

Respectfully submitted:

Douglas Boyd, Chair (Member at Large)
Robert Burger, Vice Chair (Member at Large)
Dorothy Kibbe, Secretary (Member at Large)
John D. Flynn (Planning Board)
Benjamin Bump (Housing Authority)
Connie Witt (Historical Commission)
John M. Flynn (Member at Large)
Phillip Grant (Conservation Commission)