



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Annual Town Report 2020

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a mechanism for cities and towns to raise capital for specific projects that improve the quality of life for all residents. With matching funds from the state, the money raised can be used for land conservation, historic preservation projects, affordable housing development, and active recreational uses. Hubbardston passed the CPA in November 2006. Funds are administered through a committee (CPC) comprised of representatives from the three areas of allowed use, as well as at-large members. Information and guidelines, as well as an application form, can be found on the town web site. The CPC reviews all applications and those that meet the guidelines of the CPA coupled with a fiduciary review of CPA income and obligations are recommended to the Selectboard to be voted on by Town Meeting.

Four CPA articles were approved at the June 23, 2020 annual town meeting: two for funding library roof restoration debt, one for replacing the Rainbow Playground at Curtis Field and the last for appropriating the FY2021 annual local estimated revenue to the respective categories as required by law.

CPA revenue totals FY2020:

\$66,143.29 Surcharge + \$14,867.00 State match + \$4,572.63 Interest = \$85,582.92 Total

These monies accrue annually and enable the citizens of Hubbardston to preserve our past, enrich our present, and provide means to conserve open space for future generations.

Projects update:

CPA funds were utilized in the restoration project of the slate roof of the Jonas Clark Library. The library trustees are mindful of the importance of preserving our town's "architectural gem" and the necessity of continued stewardship of this landmark building.

The portable ice-skating rink was installed at Curtis Field this winter. The baseball field upgrade and the Rainbow Playground renovation are in process but progress may be contingent upon covid restrictions. Our community, children to seniors, benefit from these numerous recreational opportunities supported through CPA resources.

Planning Board member, Alice Livdahl, is tirelessly pursuing a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to create affordable housing. As part of this effort Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts (Habitat NCM) was awarded the bid for Lot 2, Ragged Hill Road in the summer of 2020. This parcel was designated by the town for affordable housing use and the bid approved by the Select Board. CPA monies are facilitating this worthwhile project and contribute to the town's mandated target of 10% affordable housing.

An initiative to conserve Fieldstone Farm was introduced to the committee in February. The goal is to partner with the East Quabbin Land Trust and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to permanently conserve this 245 acre corridor of field and forest in the eastern corner of Hubbardston. (CPC has not been involved in any land conservation for over a decade.)

We thank outgoing members Barbara Carpenter and Sue Fox for their years of service to our town and we welcome new member, Dolores Ordway.

Respectfully submitted,

Sanda Barry, Chair - Parks Commission
Stephanie Freund, Secretary - Open Space Committee
Alice Livdahl - Planning Board, Housing
Kayla Larson - Conservation Commission

Dolores Ordway, Member at large
Susan Worth, Treasurer - Member at large
Danielle Arakelian, Member at large