

Community Preservation Committee

Your tax dollars at work!

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) (Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, Sections 3 through 7, inclusive) was adopted by the Town of Hubbardston at the town election held November 2006. The Act provides a 1.5% surcharge, with certain exemptions, to assessed property tax bills annually. Matching funds are received from the state each year and placed into a special Community Preservation Fund to be used solely for community projects. In 2008 the Hubbardston Community Preservation Committee (CPC) was formed and held its first meeting. The CPC administers the planning, acquisition, creation, preservation, support, restoration and rehabilitation of open space, community housing, recreation, and historical concerns based on applications received for those projects.

The CPC, comprised of representatives from the four areas of allowed uses and members at large, reviews all project applications received to determine if they meet specific CPA criteria. Once compliance is established, the CPC recommends projects to the board of Selectmen to be voted on by Town Meeting. If approved by town vote, the projects may then be completed. Respective committees are accountable for required documentation, to include project plans, budgets, quotes, and receipts. Preapproval must be obtained from the CPC for any changes to the original applications.

Since 2008, the CPC has overseen numerous projects in the community and looks forward to many more:

* The Historical Greek Revival First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston has received many repairs to preserve its structure. Steeple, bell tower, and roof repairs have been made. Masonry and painting projects have been completed. Restoration of the clock faces on the steeple was done. The historical flagpole on the grounds was also restored, marked with a plaque and a light to make it visible at night.

* The Open Space Committee facilitated the purchase of a 67.47 acre parcel of land abutting state conservation lands on Malone Road. An additional project to clear overgrown vegetation and undesirable trees, and to remove trash and abandoned household goods from the site was completed, creating an inviting natural area for hiking, picnicking, bird watching, and other activities freely available for citizens.

* The historic Williamsville Chapel received CPC funding to repair their leaky roof and kitchen ceiling.

* The Hubbardston Library was able to have an architectural assessment and evaluation of their building completed.

* Hubbardston Center School received funding for their beautiful new playground, where there was previously none.

* All of the town's historical records, dating from 1767, have been professionally restored by an archival preservation company. This project effectively preserved 32 volumes including vital records such as births, deaths, marriages, and important town documents.

* The town was able to hire a consultant to assist in creating an Affordable Housing Plan to meet state requirements.