

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 or CPA funds. These local funds are augmented by State matching up to 100%. With only 61 communities within the State passing the CPA to date, we have received full matching funds for the last two years and expect to collect 100% matching funds in FY04. The monies collected by this surcharge can 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 2003 (per the committee's recommendation and voter approval) the following proposals were approved:

OPEN SPACE	\$20,000 to the Hampden Land Trust
HISTORIC PRESERVATION	\$6999 for continued gravestone restoration and repairs to the Holding Tomb in 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:

Noreen A Couture, Chair (Historical Commission)
Sheila Thompson, Vice Chair (Conservation Commission)
Dorothy Kibbe, Secretary (Member at Large)
John D. Flynn (Planning Board)
Benjamin Bump (Housing Authority)
Robert Burger (Member at Large)
John M. Flynn (Member at Large)
Douglas Boyd (Member at Large)