

Community Preservation Committee 2012 Annual Report

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is responsible for the administration of the Community Preservation Fund, the selection of projects for recommendation to Town Meeting for funding, and the monitoring of the progress of funded community preservation projects. By statute, Community Preservation Funds may be allocated to those projects which support the acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space, historic resources, community housing, and land for recreational use.

From the first funding round in 2004 through October 2007 the Town benefited from a 100% State match for all locally raised Community Preservation Funds. Caused by a revenue drop in the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund and an increasing number of cities and towns adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA, M.G.L. Ch. 44B), the 2008 State match dropped to 67 percent, 2009 was 35%, 2010 and 2011 the match was 27%. For 2012 Acton again had to make do with a 26.83 percent match (\$208,957). Nevertheless, Acton's Community Preservation Program continued successfully with its support and funding of worthy and eligible projects.

At the beginning of 2012, the Community Preservation Fund balance stood at \$1,389,267 plus \$1,577,537 was in the Open Space Set-Aside Fund. In April, Town Meeting approved funding from the Community Preservation Fund for six projects, an additional set-aside for open space, a small set-aside for historic preservation, and administrative costs, totaling \$1,194,470. A Community Preservation Fund balance of \$ 194,797 remained unallocated and the Open Space Set-Aside Fund was now at 2,077,537. The funded projects included support for affordable community housing at \$340,000, for historic preservation and rehabilitation of various structures including the restoration of the Town Hall Tower Clock for a total of \$96,000; and improvement of the T.J. O'Grady Skate Park for \$210,000; \$500,000 was set aside into the Open Space Set-Aside Fund; \$528 were set-aside for historic preservation in order to meet minimum statutory requirements; and \$47,942 was allocated to cover the Town's direct and administrative costs for the CPA Program.

Following the Annual Town Meeting the CPC issued award letters to fund recipients.

Some community preservation projects that were completed during 2012 are:

- The restoration of several windows in the historic part of Memorial Library.
- The restoration of the Town Hall Tower Clock.
- The restoration and rehabilitation of the Acton Women's Club entrances.

To date, CPC funds have supported approximately 79 community preservation projects throughout the community; some of them are still in progress.

As of June 30, 2012, the Town had raised approximately \$759,459 from the local CPA surcharge for FY2012 (unaudited) and in October 2011 received \$208,957 in State matching funds (26.83%). Together with \$194,797 that remained unallocated at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting Acton's total Community Preservation Fund balance at the end of 2012 is approximately \$1,163,213, plus interest earned in FY2012 and left-over funds to be recaptured from prior years' project appropriations. In addition there are \$2,077,537 in a set-aside fund for open space, and \$528 in a historic preservation set-aside fund.

Over the summer 2012 the CPC updated the annual Community Preservation Plan. This process included soliciting comments from community organizations and Town Committees, a public hearing in September to ascertain the needs, possibilities and resources of the Town regarding community preservation, and comments and suggestions from Townspeople and representatives of interest groups eligible for CPC funding. The Final 2013 Plan was published in September 2012 and is posted on the Town website. It contains updated guidelines and information for applicants seeking community preservation funds.

In November, the Committee received new applications for funding in 2013. The CPC will review the applications and will be interviewing the applicant. The CPC will then deliberate and decide which project and at which funding level to recommend to the 2013 Annual Town Meeting. In its deliberations, the CPC will consider available funding, the applicants' proposals, legal opinions, applicant interviews, input from Town Boards, including the Selectmen and Finance Committee, and comments from the general public.

The Community Preservation Committee generally meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in either the Acton Memorial Library meeting room or room 204 at Town Hall. All CPC meetings are open to the public and the Committee welcomes public participation throughout our annual process. Townspeople may e-mail the Committee at cpc@acton-ma.gov or contact the Town Planning office at (978) 929-6631 with questions, comments, and feedback. For additional information and to view the current Community Preservation proposals, townspeople may visit the Community Preservation page on the Town website at www.acton-ma.gov.

2012 CPC Members:

Roland Bourdon – Planning Board (Chairman)
Ken Sghia-Hughes – Acton Housing Authority (Vice-Chair)
Amy Green – Conservation Commission (Clerk)
Victoria Beyer – Historical Commission
David Clough – Board of Selectmen
Walter Foster – At Large
Elisabeth Mercier – Recreation Commission
Susan Mitchell-Hardt – At large
Corrina Roman-Kreuze – At large
Doré Hunter – Associate
Peter Ashton – Associate
Planning Department - Town staff support