

## **Report of the Community Preservation Committee**

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was signed into law by the Massachusetts Legislature in 2000 and adopted in Chatham in 2002. The CPA is an innovative tool, which allows communities to create a local community preservation trust fund to raise money through a surcharge of up to 3% of the real estate tax levy for:

- \* acquisition and support of open space
- \* creation and support of affordable housing
- \* acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes.

Local receipts are matched by the State with funds raised through fees from the Registry of Deeds.

The Act requires that 10% of the funds raised in each fiscal year be spent or reserved annually for each of the CPA's main purposes. The remaining 70 percent of CPA funds in each fiscal year are available to be appropriated or "banked", according to the Community Preservation Committee's (CPC) recommendations and Town Meeting approval for one or more of the three purposes listed above and for public recreational uses. Any individual, non-profit organization, Town Board, Committee or Commission may apply for funds. All applicants meet with the CPC to discuss their requests. After reviewing applications the Committee makes recommendations to Town Meeting, which votes to appropriate the funds.

In 2007 six (6) applications were recommended by the CPC and approved by Town Meeting. These were: \$870,000 to fund the restoration and preservation of four brick buildings on the Marconi site in North Chatham; \$150,000 to reconstruct the tennis courts at the Chatham Middle/High School; \$115,000 to undertake historic preservation repairs to the Railroad Museum; \$125,000 to continue Chatham Homebuyer Assistance Program; \$25,000 to engage a professional surveyor to survey Town-owned conservation lands and \$26,500 to implement public access projects on two Town-owned properties. These appropriations totaled \$ 1,311,500. Additionally \$13,000 was approved for administrative costs.

At six Town Meetings since Chatham adopted the Act, \$6,277,326 has been voted for various projects with 50% of that amount raised through the local surcharge and 50% in state matching funds (a 100% match for each fiscal year). Affordable Housing received 21% of the funds; Historic Preservation - 62%, Open Space – 11% and Recreation- 6%.

The composition of the CPC is determined by state statute and local authorization. There are nine members including five that are required under the Act. These required members are from the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Housing Authority, the Planning Board and the Recreation Commission. In addition, there are two members At-Large and representatives from the Affordable Housing Committee and the Land Bank Committee.

The Committee meets monthly but more frequently when reviewing and voting on applications to recommend to Town Meeting. A Public Hearing as required by the Act

is held annually.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Seldin, Chairperson  
Victor DiCristina, Vice-chair  
Joanne Taylor, Clerk  
Robert Denn  
Corinne Johnson  
John Kaar (Replaced Lynne Pleffner June  
2007)  
Robert Oliver (Replaced Frank Messina  
December 2007)  
Franklin S. Pease, Jr.  
Joyce Reynolds

Affordable Housing  
Open Space/Land Bank  
Chatham Housing Authority  
At-Large  
Conservation Commission  
Planning Board  
  
Historical Commission  
  
At-Large  
Parks and Recreation Commission