

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT FY16

THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT, MGL CHAPTER 44B (CPA), IS LEGISLATION WHICH ALLOWS CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TO ADOPT A PROPERTY TAX SURCHARGE WITH SURCHARGE REVENUES PLUS MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE STATE TO BE ALLOCATED FOR THE “ACQUISITION, CREATION AND PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE, THE ACQUISITION, CREATION AND PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND LANDSCAPES AND THE CREATION AND PRESERVATION OF COMMUNITY HOUSING.”¹

In 2002, Wareham enacted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) approving a 3% real estate tax surcharge (with initial \$100,000 property value exclusion) which qualifies the Town to receive state funds from the Commonwealth each year. The state funds are generated by recording fees at the Registrar of Deeds. To date the Town of Wareham has received \$4,330,305 of these funds.

In FY16, the Town of Wareham collected \$682,236 in CPA funds and received \$244,201 from the state. With funds unspent from prior year, Community Preservation Commission (CPC) had a balance of \$2,808,713 to support approved projects. At both the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 Town Meetings, the voters approved open space, recreation, and historic preservation grants for a total of \$726,200. Two CPA grant requests (new housing at Agawam Village and creation of a dog park) were not placed on the Town Meeting Warrant by the Selectman.

Following is the financial report for FY16:

FY16 REVENUE

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 3% TAX SURCHARGE | 662,634 | |
| STATE MATCH FUND | 244,201 | |
| INTEREST EARNED | 19,602 | |
| UNALLOCATED PRIOR YEAR | 1,348,416 | |
| OPEN SPACE RESERVE | 55,200 | |
| AFFORDABLE HOUSING | 428,003 | |
| HISTORIC PRESERVATION | 50,657 | |
| TOTAL REVENUE | | 2,808,713 |

FY16 GRANTS

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| ONSET BOAT RAMP | 100,000 |
| 3 TENNIS COURTS | 90,000 |
| OLD SCHOOL HOUSE | 34,200 |
| BRYANT FARM WALKING TRAILS | 67,000 |
| SWIFT BEACH ENGINEERING PLAN | 11,000 |
| ONSET BAY PROJECT | 400,000 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| WESTFIELD SOFTBALL FENCES | 24,000 | |
| FUNDS RETURNED CLOSED PROJECTS | -30,871 | |
| ADMIN FUNDS | 3,228 | |
| TOTAL GRANTS | | 698,557 |
| FY16 CPA FUND BALANCE | | |
| BALANCE UNALLOCATED | 1,329,524 | |
| OPEN SPACE RESERVE | 136,400 | |
| AFFORDABLE HOUSING | 509,203 | |
| HISTORIC PRESERVATION | 97,657 | |
| ADMIN RESERVE | 37,372 | |
| TOTAL FUND BALANCE | | 2,110,156 |

Community Preservation Committee

George Barrett – Planning Board

Open – Historic Commission

Brian Litchfield – Co-chair, Open Space Committee

William Lockwood – Housing Authority

Jamie Rebhan-Buckminster - at-large member

Sandra Slavin – Co-chair, Treasurer, Conservation Commission

Sherbie Worthen – Clerk, at-large member