Community Preservation Act in Hatfield
2019 Town Meeting Report

Hatfield adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2006. Locally raised funds matched by funding from the Commonwealth Community Preservation Trust Fund have been used for historic preservation, open space protection, housing and recreation projects.

Project Updates:

Activity on CPA projects during Fiscal Year 2019 included: Completion of Phase 1 of the re-development of the park on the site of the original Smith Academy on Main Street; inauguration of the Hatfield Community Gardens on Billings Way; execution of a hiking trail easement to the White Rocks area on Horse Mountain and initial work on building the trail; and completion of the architectural study of the Smith Charities Building and commencement of restoration work on the Hampshire County Courthouse in Northampton (these two projects received small contributions from Hatfield).

CPA Fund Update:

In November 2018, Hatfield received $109,741 from the state fund, close to a 70% match of our local receipts (69.4%). Hatfield was one of only 11 CPA communities to receive more than a 65% match. This is due to a combination of Hatfield being a 3% surcharge community and a smaller town in the Commonwealth. The state distribution formula favors Hatfield in both categories. Most CPA communities only received a 19% match. Revenue for the Trust Fund has been down in recent years. There is legislation pending to increase the Registry Fees that generate revenue for the Trust Fund.

Since 2008, Hatfield has raised $1,388,709 from local CPA collections and received $1,188,753 from the State Trust Fund – an 86% state match. Through May 2018, $1,821,741 has been allocated to 32 projects.

Harrison Bardwell joined the committee as the Conservation Commission’s representative to fill the seat vacated by Ron Sassi.

After serving as the Open Space Committee (OSC) representative and Vice Chair of the committee since its inception, Peter Cocks retired this past year. His sage and thoughtful advice will be sorely missed. Steve Touloumtzis is the new representative of the OSC on the committee.

CPC members:

Michael Bartlett, Harrison Bardwell, Tom Gingras, Amy Hahn, Michael McGrath, Russell Powell, Steve Touloumtzis, Bob Wagner and John Wilkes.