

Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was established by the state in 2002 and was adopted by town meeting and a ballot vote in 2005. Its purpose is to help fund and to encourage cities and towns to renovate their historical assets, to create and restore parks, recreational areas and open space and to provide funds for community housing. 193 cities and towns have adopted the "Act", covering over 70% of the state's population. Currently Manchester raises CPA funds by charging a 1.5% surcharge on your annual tax bills. The Act allows each city or town to raise up to 3% annually. The state provides an annual match based on real estate deed filing fees collected each year. Last year's tax surcharges were approximately \$425,000 and we received a 20% match from the state. Since inception, the town has raised \$5,124,261 in surcharges and received matching grants of \$1,676,263 (32.7%) for a total of \$6,800,524. This leverage is what makes the CPA program appealing.

Each year the town's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) works with town officials, groups and citizens in order to study the needs of the town that may qualify for CPA funding. Our application process allows anyone to seek funding and the CPC annually determines eligibility and prioritizes which projects to bring forth to town meeting for voter consideration.

This past year, the CPC was pleased to see its funded projects result in a much needed new athletic field on Pine St (now in operation), a new roof on the Chowder House, renovated restrooms at Tuck's Point, library renovations and modifications for safer operations and better sustainability, continuing support for affordable housing, improvements to Manchester's much-used open spaces, and many other projects that can be found on the state CPA coalition data base.

The CPC, once again, is appreciative of your support and encourages your participation in the annual funding process.

And a thank you to Helene Shaw-Kwasie for her administrative support throughout the year.

Community Preservation Committee
Jack Burke, Chair
Joan McDonald, Vice Chair