
PRESS RELEASE

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095

Contact: Stoughton Smead, Chairman, CPC

Email: sto@motorace.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilbraham Seeks Proposals for Community Preservation Funding

WILBRAHAM –Wilbraham’s Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is seeking proposals for projects addressing Open Space Preservation, Historic Preservation, Affordable Housing, and Recreation for possible funding under the Community Preservation Act (CPA) for fiscal year 2021. New application forms are now available at the Town Office Building, Selectmen’s Office and the Town web site.

The CPC will hold open public meetings to answer questions from applicants and to receive comments from residents. Attendance is strongly recommended for all applicants to assure that the requirements of the CPA are understood and incorporated into the 2021 applications. The meetings are set for November 20, 2019, and December 11, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield St., Wilbraham, MA 01095.

Since 2004 over 106 projects have been approved at Town Meeting, totaling over six million dollars of Wilbraham betterments. Before the CPA there was no source of funding for a town to preserve its open space, historical assets, cultural resources, outdoor recreation and affordable housing.

Interested groups are urged to visit the Community Preservation Coalition’s website at www.communitypreservation.org to see projects being approved within the Commonwealth.

Wilbraham voters adopted the CPA by a vote of 4,399 to 3,111 on November 2, 2004. The CPA provides funding through a local property tax surcharge and state funding for open space, historic resources and affordable housing. Wilbraham residents approved a ballot question calling for a 1.5 percent surcharge on property tax bills while exempting the first \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real estate and providing abatements for qualifying low-income residents and moderate-income senior citizens. The CPA requires that at least 10 percent of annual CPA revenue be allocated to each of the three purposes with the remaining 70 percent available for allocation among the three categories and community outdoor recreation facilities. Allocation of CPA receipts must be by recommendation of the Wilbraham Community Preservation Committee and approval at Town Meeting.