

PRESS RELEASE

To: Editor

Date: October 6, 2011

Re: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - Application Process

The Scituate Community Preservation Committee (the "CPC") is now accepting applications for projects to be considered for funding at the spring 2012 Annual Town Meeting. Applications for Funding are accepted throughout the year, but applications received by November 1, 2011 will be eligible for consideration at the spring 2012 Annual Town Meeting. (Funds approved at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting are generally not available for expenditure until fiscal 2013 – after July 1, 2012) Project applications will be considered by the CPC at its regularly scheduled public meetings. Applications voted on favorably by a majority of the CPC members will be recommended to Town Meeting. Town Meeting makes the ultimate decision on whether or not CPC funds are expended for a project. For more information and to download a copy of the current Application for Funding and related guidelines, please visit the CPC Web site at www.scituatecpc.org.

The Community Preservation Act ("the CPA" or "the Act") was adopted by Scituate voters in 2002. As adopted by the voters, a three percent (3%) CPA surcharge is assessed on all property tax bills with certain exemptions. The CPA funds **MAY ONLY** be expended for allowed purposes under the Act, including the acquisition, preservation, restoration or creation of open space, historical purposes, land for recreational purposes and community housing. The CPA mandates the expenditure or "banking" of ten percent (10%) of the annual revenue for the following three categories: open space, historical, and community housing. The remaining seventy percent (70%) of CPA funds may be expended as additional funds within those three categories and for certain recreational projects, with up to five percent (5%) of total CPA revenues available for administrative expenses. Any unexpended balance of administrative expense for a fiscal year is returned to the CPA general fund and may not be carried over for future administrative purposes. The CPA funds may **NOT** be used to cover normal Town operating expenses or for any purposes not allowed under the Act.

Under the Act, a CPC has been established to make **recommendations** to the residents of the Town of Scituate for the use of the CPA funds. The residents of the Town of Scituate make the ultimate funding decisions regarding CPC funds at Town Meeting. The nine-member Committee is appointed by the Selectmen and is made up of four at-large members and five Town board members (Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Housing Authority, Recreation Committee and Historical Commission).

If you have a project that meets the CPA guidelines and requires funding, we encourage you to submit an Application for Funding. If you have any questions, please feel free to attend a CPC meeting, which normally commences at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the WPA Building in North Scituate or the GAR Hall on Country Way in Scituate. Please see our website for meeting times, dates and locations. Additional monthly meetings are scheduled and the CPC usually meets more than once per month from November through January. You can see the meeting schedule at the CPC Web Site at www.scituatecpc.org. **Remember, the residents of the Town of Scituate make the ultimate funding decisions regarding CPC funds at Town Meeting. The Committee also welcomes voter participation and inquiries during its hearing process on applications in its process of evaluating which projects are recommended to voters at Town Meeting**

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The Committee looks forward to completing its task in the upcoming year.
Sincerely,

John Bulman, Chairman
Scituate Community Preservation Committee