

THE FYI ON THE CPA

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a Massachusetts state law (MGL Ch. 44B) passed in 2000 that enables cities and towns to raise funds and create a local dedicated fund to:

- Preserve open space
- Create affordable housing
- Preserve historic sites
- Develop outdoor recreation

New Bedford adopted the program through a ballot question in November 2014 and has elected to fund the CPA account through a 1.5% surcharge on annual tax assessment. To fulfill the obligations of the city in using these funds, City Council appointed a Community Preservation Committee in 2016.

Who decides how this money is spent in New Bedford?

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) oversees the implementation of the CPA in New Bedford. The CPC is responsible for establishing priorities for how CPA funding should be spent. Based on those priorities, the CPC makes recommendations of projects to the City Council they believe should receive funding.

New Bedford's CPC consists of nine volunteer members: four members of the general public appointed by the Mayor, and five "required members" from each of the following municipal committees:

- Conservation Commission
- Historical Commission
- Park Board
- Planning Board
- Housing Authority

The City Council can approve, reject, or reduce the Committee's funding proposals.

What does the CPC do?

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has four major responsibilities:

- **Assess Community Preservation needs of New Bedford** by soliciting input from city boards and commissions and holding an annual public hearing to gain public input;
- **Develop and maintain a community preservation plan** establishing the CPC's priorities for recommending projects to the City Council to receive CPA funding;
- **Prepare an annual budget for the City Council**, establishing how the Committee intends to allocate annual CPA revenue;
- **Make project recommendations to the City Council** presenting the allocation of CPA funding following a competitive application process.

So, what's the first step?

First comes a Community Preservation Plan... The creation of a Community Preservation Plan to be revised annually is an important first step to ensure that community goals, priorities and the CPC's emphasis reflects the city.

As part of the process of developing a Community Preservation Plan, the first responsibility of the CPC is to study the needs, possibilities and resources of the community with regards to community preservation. This comes from three areas: existing planning documents, input from other municipal boards and committees and finally, input from the general public.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In the course of developing the Community Preservation Plan, the CPC is reaching out!

As part of its outreach to municipal boards and committees, the CPC is interested in hearing from members of the New Bedford Historical Commission to better understand the city's needs and priorities regarding the acquisition and preservation of historic resources.

Through research and review of the *2010 Preservation Forum Report* and the *Massachusetts Preservation Plan*, the following priorities and needs were identified. Please review these items to make sure they are still relevant and feel free to provide additional priorities as well!

- Continuously update and maintain the existing Historic Properties Survey Forms and seek additional National Register nominations.
- Protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate city-owned properties, features or resources of historic significance; particularly historic landscapes, burial grounds, monuments and park systems, as well as historic records and documents;
- Protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate historic, cultural, architectural or archaeological resources of significance, especially those that are endangered in that their survival may depend upon more than market forces or regulatory controls;
- Support the adaptive reuse of historic properties;
- Increase neighborhood stabilization through the preservation of historically significant structures and city-owned buildings;
- Advance the city's preservation ethic through education to attain a better community understanding of the purposes and impacts of historic preservation.

What do you think?