

Agawam's Community Preservation Plan



History of the Agawam Community Preservation Act

The residents of the Town of Agawam voted in November of 2001 to adopt The Community Preservation Act (CPA). CPA provides a source for community funding dedicated to open space, historic resources, recreational land and community housing. The funds, raised through a 1% surcharge of real estate tax may be used for the purchase and rehabilitation of those community assets. The town also receives state matching funds, in an amount that varies each year according to the Town's actual collected surcharge.

The CPA requires that 10 percent of the total yearly revenue be set aside for use in each of the three categories: open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing. CPA funds that are not expended in one year will be banked and carried over to subsequent years. However, once CPA funds are allocated they must be used for that purpose.

The Agawam Community Preservation Act Committee

The Agawam Community Preservation Act Committee (ACPAC) is a group of nine Agawam residents, whose function is to advise the Agawam Town Council about expenditures requested by various entities pursuant to the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Of those nine, there must be one each from: Historical Commission, Conservation Committee, Planning Board, Recreation Commission, and Housing Authority. The Town Council appoints the remaining four members to serve at large. Each member serves for a term of three years. The CPA allows those communities who vote to adopt the plan surcharge their citizens as part of their real estate taxes in order to have monies available for preservation resources. The CPA was legislated into law by G.L. Chapter , § , and the residents of Agawam voted in November of 2001 to adopt it by a 2/3 majority.

The ACPAC is primarily a source for funding, rather than an initiator of projects. Town boards and departments, civic organizations, and residents may bring proposals for funding to the committee. The ACPAC will give favorable consideration to those proposals that best meet CPA guidelines and are consistent with the Town of Agawam's goals in the area of historic preservation, affordable housing or open space and recreation.

The ACPAC does not have the power to appropriate funds for particular projects, only to make recommendations to the Agawam Town Council. Under the CPA, the power to appropriate CPA funding is reserved solely for the Agawam Town Council. The council may act only upon the recommendation of the ACPAC. For this reason, the ACPAC provides a strong and consistent rationale for all recommendations.

CPA Committee Goals

The ACPAC is required to study the “needs and resources” for community preservation as stipulated in the Community Preservation Plan, specifically in the Town of Agawam. The ACPAC anticipates that in each fiscal year the requests for funds will exceed the monies available. Therefore, in making decisions about projects to recommend for funding, the ACPAC uses specific decision guidelines, some of which are outlined below, in its project review and selection process. All guidelines are not necessarily appropriate for each project.

CPA Goals

As The Town of Agawam moves forward with its plans and considers the future, it needs to:

- Protect and acquire open space.
- Increase both passive and recreational facilities
- Create and preserve its low-income and senior housing.
- Identify and preserve its historical resources.

Application Guidelines

- What is the goal of the proposed project and under what category does it fall (i.e. historic)?
- What is the plan to accomplish the goal, and what is the timeline for implementation?
- How will the project help to preserve and/or improve the character of Agawam? How will it benefit the town?
- What is the nature and level of support for this project? Letters of support are helpful.
- How will the success of this project be measured?
- Who will be responsible to oversee the project, insure that materials meet specifications and that the timeline is followed?
- What is the total budget for the project and how will CPA funds be spent? Are other funding sources available and from where? All items of expenditure must be clearly identified. If a project is expected to continue for more than one year or if bonding the project is anticipated, detail the total cost, CPA funding and other sources of funding for each fiscal year.

General Information

1. Some examples of preservation or acquisition of open space include agricultural and forest lands, wetlands and floodplains, wildlife habitats and neighborhood parks. Such open space planning evaluates the needs of the community and every five years the ACPAC reviews this need planning and submits a report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for review and approval.

Current open space in Agawam:

- Agawam Meadows - privately owned
- Harts Pond and access - privately owned
- Leonard Pond Wetland Complex - privately owned
- Lower section of Westfield River - privately owned
- Provin Mountain- privately owned
- Silver Lake - privately owned
- West Springfield Fish & Game Club - privately owned

- Land bordered by the Agawam Industrial Park, Garden Street and Route 57 Extension-state owned
- Robinson Park - state owned

- Agawam Municipal Golf Course - town owned
- Campanelli Land - town owned
- Connecticut River Walk - town owned
- Cote Property - town owned
- Joanne Drive - town owned
- Pynchon Point - town owned
- Ridgeview Park - town owned
- School Street/River Road parcel - town owned
- Tuckahoe Turf Farm & large pond - town owned

To aid in the implementation of the Open Space Plan of the Town of Agawam, CPA funds can be used to:

- Increase both active and passive recreational facilities and also make them handicap accessible.
- Foster the development of neighborhood playgrounds,
- Add recreational facilities at Town parks,
- Increase additional recreational opportunities for the elderly.
- Educate landowners concerning Chapter 61 programs and the Agricultural Restriction Program in an attempt to protect the remaining farms in the Town of Agawam.
- Land presently in the State's APR and Chapter 61 A and B. See index.

General Information (continued)

2. CPA funds can be used for the construction and/or preservation of Agawam's low income and senior housing projects.

Current list of low income and senior housing in Agawam:

- Brady Village, 775 Springfield Street Feeding Hills – 44 units
- Colonial Haven, 886 Main Street Agawam - 52 units
- Country View Apartments, 95 North Westfield Street Agawam - 40 units
- Danahy Schoolhouse, 51 Maple Street Agawam – 35 units
- Meadowbrook Manor, Wright Street, Agawam - 64 units
- Wade Village, Franklin Street, Feeding Hills – 7 units

3. CPA funds can also be used to enhance and preserve historical and cultural resources.

Current list of historical resources in Agawam:

- Barn on School Street property (Town owned)
- Captain Charles Leonard House – Main Street (privately owned)
- Main Street Historical District
- Thomas Smith House – North West Street (privately owned)

Further Information

Copies of this document, as well as links to Agawam Preservation Funded projects, are available on the Town of Agawam's web site (www.Agawam.ma.us).

This Community Preservation Plan is respectfully submitted to the Agawam Town Council for their approval.

Adopted by the Agawam Community Preservation Committee on January 30, 2006

Henry A. Kozloski, Chair
Louis Russo, Vice-Chair
Owen Broadhurst, Secretary
V. Baldwin
JD Dawson
Dottie Drewnowski
Richard Maggi
Thomas Tierney
Grace L. Tilden