
PRESS RELEASE

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilbraham Seeks Proposals for Community Preservation Funding

WILBRAHAM – For the ninth year, the town’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 for fiscal year 2017, which begins on July 1, 2016. The application deadline is the close of business on January 14, 2016. Application forms are available at the Town Office Building (selectmen’s office).

The CPC will hold two 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 Community Preservation Act (CPA) are understood and incorporated into applications. The meetings are set for October 29, 2015, November 19, 2015, December 17, 2015 and January 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Town Office Building. Dates and locations are subject to change.

Interested groups are urged to visit the statewide Community Preservation Coalition’s website at www.communitypreservation.org to review the types of projects being approved across the Commonwealth.

Wilbraham voters adopted the Community Preservation Act by a vote of 4,399 to 3,111 on November 2, 2004. The act 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 revenue be allocated to each of the three purposes, with the remaining 70 percent available for allocation among the three categories and to community recreation facilities. Allocation of CPA receipts must be by recommendation of the town’s Community Preservation Committee and approval of Town Meeting.