History of the CPA in Shutesbury:

May 6, 2008  Town study committee recommended and Town Meeting approved Article 9 of the 2008 Annual Town Meeting, MGL 44B sections 3 to 7 inclusive (the Community Preservation Act) at 1.5% commencing in FY 2009 with exemptions for people who qualify as low income and the first $100,000 value of each taxable parcel of residential real property.

October 2008  Special Town Meeting approved the Community Preservation Bylaw

November 4, 2008 state ballot, the town approved the same wording as the Annual Town Meeting vote. This completed the three required votes for implementation of the Community Preservation Act for Shutesbury.

June 30, 2009 the first year’s surcharge revenues has been received during FY 09 from the Shutesbury taxpayers.

Summer 2009 – The Town’s ‘Representative’ committees were asked to select their representatives, later approved by the Board of Selectmen. (Planning Board, Conservation, Finance, Open Space, Housing – Select Committee appointed, Historical, At-large)

November-December 2009 CPC nominees attend Community Preservation Coalition orientation training regarding the CPA generally and committee procedures specifically.

January 2010 Community Preservation Committee (CPC) members appointed, begin start-up work. Committee meets. Officers elected. CPC begins a period of information gathering and study of the CPA statute, other Town’s guidelines, applications and CP Plans.

March – April 2010, CPC continues study of other town’s approaches; begins drafting Shutesbury’s guidelines and application process and forms begins. First CPC Annual Budget Warrant Article voted.

May 2010 – Town Meeting passes first Annual CPC FY 11 Budget Warrant Article:

Article 9: A motion was made and seconded to act on the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee on the fiscal year 2011 budget and reserve for later appropriation the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues:

- Open Space Preservation $3,500.00
- Historic Preservation $3,500.00
- Housing $3,500.00

As well as appropriate the sum of $1,750.00 from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for all necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for the year, and further to retain unobligated funds as budgetary reserve.

Summer-fall 2010
– CPC Representatives meet with their respective Town Committees to solicit input re: Shutesbury’s needs, resources and opportunities for Community Preservation
– CPC drafts Shutesbury’s application process and forms, project guidelines/criteria, and the CP Plan

Fall 2010 CPC Chair presents to all Town Boards Meeting, solicits input on needs, resources and opportunities. CPC approves CP Application and Approval Process, and Guidelines adopted. CP Plan Draft refined.

November 2010 – First project is proposed for CPA funding – West Schoolhouse Sills Project, asking for $15,000, contributing $5,000 from privately raised funds, and volunteer hours for landscaping etc.


January 5, 2010 Draft CPC selection and review process discussed

February 24, 2011 – FY 11 Public Hearing, CPC solicits input on needs, resources and opportunities; Historical Commission presents proposal for public and CPC comments and discussion

April 7, 2011 – CPC votes to recommend $15,000 funding for the West Schoolhouse Sills Project and recommends the annual budget warrant article.

May 7, 2011 – Annual Town Meeting. Project and Annual Budget Warrant Articles warrants recommended and approved:

October 2011 – CPC approves revised Community Preservation Plan

By DJF May 8, 2011