

Community Preservation Committee

Recommended Projects for Annual Town Meeting

By Donald Fletcher, Chair, Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) voted unanimously on March 17, 2016, to recommend that Annual Town Meeting approve two proposed Community Preservation funded recreation projects. The detailed project proposals are on the CPC web page at Shutesbury.org. (see Offices & Committees)

Shutesbury Elementary School:

- Restore the kindergarten playground and purchase an ADA accessible playground structure to create a playground space for young children including children with disabilities
\$29,000
- Construct a multi-use track in the upper field that is usable and safe for many populations
\$5,000

The applicant completed a detailed application and went through an extensive review process. The CPC process began with the applicant completing preliminary Determination of Eligibility applications for each proposal. On December 3, 2015, Shutesbury's CPC - with members who represent the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Community Housing, Open Space Committee, Finance Committee, Planning Board, and the community-at-large - determined that the two proposed projects are eligible to receive Community Preservation funds. The applicant then prepared full applications with descriptions, specifications, and budgets for each project. The CPC convened an open meeting for an initial review and discussion of the proposals in January. At the February CPC meeting, the applicant presented its proposals and answered the CPC members' questions. At the CPC's Annual Public Hearing on March 9th the applicant again presented and answered follow-up questions from the members of the committee and other interested Shutesbury residents, including students of the Shutesbury Elementary School.

After completing its review and evaluation process, the CPC members voted unanimously on March 17, 2016, to recommend funding both projects. Each project is financially and administratively feasible, has other sources of funding, includes significant in-kind volunteer contributions, and has support from other town boards or committees. Each project will provide a positive impact to the community and will take a step toward achieving long standing, but unfunded, priority goals for Shutesbury. The total appropriation, should the Annual Town meeting approve both projects recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, is \$34,000. This will leave an increase of approximately \$13,700 in additional CPA town funds through June 30, 2017.

Shutesbury's Community Preservation Committee recommends that fellow community members attend Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 7, 2016, and approve Community Preservation funds to implement these two worthwhile recreation projects. The CPC thanks all the volunteers who worked together to develop these proposed projects and those who have committed to contribute to their implementation.