

Sunderland Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

2020 CPA Proposals Recommended for Approval by Town Meeting

Dear Sunderland Voters:

Your Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has thoroughly vetted each proposal for CPA funding on this year's warrant. The committee determined that all the proposals meet our community goals and unanimously recommends them all for funding.

As of February 2020, the Town had a balance of roughly \$650,000 in uncommitted CPA funds. The recommended proposals below add up to just under \$280,000. If Town Meeting approves them all, we will still have a balance of more than \$370,000, not including this year's collection and state match.

In a time of intense economic hardship, some have questioned whether our CPA funds can be used to make up for shortfalls in the Town budget. By law, CPA funds can only be used for particular purposes within four categories: Affordable Housing, Historic Preservation, Open Space, and Recreation. Please talk with a member of the CPC if you have thoughts on how to use these restricted funds to support the Town.

Positive developments happen in our town only when committed volunteers step forward to lead them. We applaud the community champions who have dedicated their time and energy to the following projects, and encourage you to support them.

Sunderland Community Preservation Committee

Sara Snyder, Chair

Jennifer Unkles, Treasurer

Helen Clark, Clerk

Meghan Arquin

Tom Fydenkevez

Peter Jessop

Mike Wisseman

Article 10: Educational Pollinator Garden - \$1,000

Sunderland resident Inky Stainsworth proposes to engage community members in creating an organic, native pollinator garden with illustrated infographic signage at the Elementary School.

Article 11: Land Conservation for Drinking Water Protection - \$64,000

The Sunderland Conservation Commission seeks to conserve 40 acres of watershed land at the base of Mt. Toby on Cross Mountain Rd. The Town's Water District has received a state grant that will pay half the costs of purchasing this land. The proposed CPA funds would contribute to the required 50% match. Contributions are also being made by the Sunderland Water District, the Sunderland Conservation Trust, and the Kestrel Trust.

Article 12: Riverside Park Recreational Buildings - \$87,457.50

Sunderland Public Library proposes to replace two decaying storage sheds in Riverside Park with two buildings newly designed through a grant from the UMass Architecture School. The new facilities will remediate safety issues, provide shaded seating next to the baseball field, enhance the aesthetics of the park, and enable the Library to start lending kayaks to Sunderland residents.

Article 13: Next Phase Riverside Park Design - \$22,060

The Town seeks to plan and design the next phase of development of Riverside Park. This project will address longstanding needs to improve the soccer and baseball facilities and to renovate the bathroom building to be ADA-compliant. Professional design is a necessary step toward applying for outside grants.

Article 14: Riverside Park Archeological Survey - \$12,000

If Sunderland receives state funds to further develop Riverside Park, the Town will likely be required to conduct an archeological survey before proceeding with construction. If that were to happen, we would not have time to wait for another Town Meeting to appropriate the necessary funds. The Town proposes to appropriate these funds now so we can meet state regulations in time if need be. If the archeological dig is not required, the funds will be returned.

Article 15: Town Trail System Design - \$6,780

The Community Pathways Committee proposes to complete a formal planning process for a town-wide public trail system. The goals of this project are to define public walking and biking routes, facilitate access to points of interest, improve the town's connection to Mt. Toby, and increase the speed and efficiency of rescue efforts on Mt. Toby. The end result will be a professional plan, schematic maps, and cost estimates necessary to pursue outside grants.

Article 16: PARC Grant Financing Costs - \$2,801.29

Last year the Town borrowed funds to pay up-front for construction of Riverside Park and was later reimbursed by the state. This short-term loan cost the Town \$2801.29. By appropriating CPA funds for this purpose, the Town will save 50% on these financing costs.

Article 17: Emergency Rental Assistance Program - \$50,000

In response to the widespread loss of income due to COVID-19, Franklin County Regional Housing Authority proposes to provide up to three months of emergency rental assistance for income-eligible Sunderland residents. An estimated 15 to 20 renter households will benefit.

Article 18: CPC Annual Accounting Motion

This article would authorize administrative funds for the CPC and debt service on the purchase of 120 North Main St., as well as accounting maneuvers that the CPC needs to undertake every year.