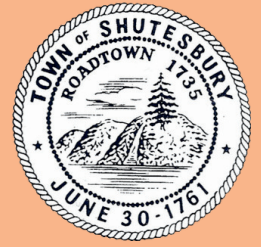


GUIDE TO 2025 CPA ARTICLES

The Community Preservation Act is a state law that authorizes towns to raise local funds for **historic preservation, open space, recreation, and community housing** projects. Since 2011, Shutesbury has awarded CPA funds to 19 projects, amounting to over \$430,000 of direct investment and millions more in matching funding. As a CPA community, we also receive matching funds from the State each year. To date, Shutesbury has received \$187,597 from the MA Community Preservation Trust Fund — representing about 44% of the cost of our past and current CPA projects. In FY24, the average homeowner in Shutesbury paid \$5.43 per month into the Town's CPA accounts.



To view Shutesbury's Community Preservation Plan and the applications for the projects being presented to today's Town Meeting, visit shutesbury.org/community_preservation.

2025 was the most active year for the CPC since Shutesbury adopted the CPA! In addition to **six grant applications**, the CPC is presenting Town Meeting with articles to **close two completed grants, rescind one grant, transfer CPA revenues to their appropriate accounts, and fund the CPC's administrative costs for FY26**. See below for a summary of these articles. See the reverse of this handout for a breakdown of the Town's CPA accounts and the effect these articles will have on them.

Consent Agenda, Articles 23-27

ARTICLE 23

CLOSE TOP OF THE LAKE GRANT

In 2015, Town Meeting awarded a CPA grant to the Conservation Commission for the creation of the Top of the Lake Conservation Area. That work is complete. This article returns the grant's remaining funds (\$359.89).

ARTICLE 24

CLOSE TRAILS CONSULTANT GRANT

In 2021, Town Meeting awarded a CPA grant to the Conservation Commission to hire a consultant to develop a plan for the trails in the South Brook Conservation Area. That work is complete. This article returns the grant's remaining funds (\$1,000).

ARTICLE 25

RESCIND OLD TOWN HALL GRANT

In 2019, Town Meeting awarded a \$34,000 CPA grant for repairs to Old Town Hall. This project did not go forward and the Buildings Committee has indicated it will not be pursuing it in the near future but may apply for a grant again when it is ready to begin work.

ARTICLE 26

TRANSFER OF CPA REVENUES

By statute, the Town must set aside 10% of annual CPA revenue for each of the designated CPA categories. The Department of Revenue also advises putting funds into a reserve account. Remaining funds are put into an account that can be used for any CPA category.

ARTICLE 27

CPC OPERATING COSTS

By statute, the CPC can seek to set aside a portion of CPA revenues for administrative costs, including membership in the Community Preservation Coalition, legal ads, consultants, printing, and so forth. This is a routine article presented by the CPC every year.

2025 CPA Funding Snapshot

Total current CPA balances: \$481,326

Recovered from closed grants: \$35,359

New CPA surcharge revenue: \$73,000

Estimated state match: \$11,607

Total CPA revenue: +\$119,966

Total grant requests: -\$108,407

Total ending CPA balances: \$492,885

ARTICLE 28

LAKE WYOLA DAM GRANT

Awards an historic resources and open space grant to the Lake Wyola Advisory Committee for the planning phase of needed repair and restoration work on the Lake Wyola Dam. Total project cost: \$55,100 (\$13,775 from CPA).

ARTICLE 29

GUIDEBOARD BASE GRANT

Awards an historic resources grant to the Historical Commission for site preparation and construction of a concrete foundation to protect the historic Town Common guideboard. Total project cost: \$2,750 (\$2,250 from CPA).

ARTICLE 30

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION GRANT

Awards an open space grant to the Conservation Commission for the removal of invasive glossy buckthorn at the Top of the Lake Conservation Area and replanting with native species. Total project cost: \$4,500 (\$4,000 from CPA).

ARTICLE 31

GUIDEBOARD REPAIRS GRANT

Awards an historic resources grant to the Historical Commission for the final phase of preservation and rehabilitation work on the historic Town Common guideboard, underway at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center. Total project cost: \$7,468 (\$6,482 from CPA).

ARTICLE 32

SOUTH BROOK TRAILS GRANT

Awards an open space grant to the Conservation Commission for the repair of trails in the South Brook Conservation Area, including planning, permitting, signage, bridges, trail redesign and construction, and more. Total project cost: \$81,604 (\$72,900 from CPA).

ARTICLE 33

WEST CEMETERY GRANT

Awards an historic resources grant to the Cemetery Commission for the third part of its ongoing work to repair and restore historic gravestones in the West Cemetery. Total project cost: \$11,500 (\$9,000 from CPA).

STATE OF SHUTESBURY'S CPA ACCOUNTS

Knowing the financial status of the Town's CPA accounts can help us make informed decisions about grant requests. The information below details how those account balances would be impacted assuming the articles presented to 2025 Annual Town Meeting are approved and given this year's CPA surcharge revenues and matching funding from the State's Community Preservation Trust Fund.

Historic Resources Account

Current balance: \$11,700

Funds from rescinding Old Town Hall repair grant: +\$34,000

New CPA surcharge revenue: +\$7,300

State match: +\$1,160

Lake Wyola Dam grant: -\$10,000

West Cemetery grant: -\$9,000

Guideboard foundation grant: -\$2,250

Guideboard preservation grant: -\$6,482

Ending balance: \$26,428



Open Space/Recreation Account

Current balance: \$14,453

Funds from closing Top of the Lake grant: +\$359

Funds from closing trails consultant grant: +\$1,000

New CPA surcharge revenue: +\$7,300

State match: +\$1,160

Invasive plant mitigation grant: -\$4,000

Lake Wyola Dam grant: -\$3,775

South Brook trails grant: -\$5,000

Ending balance: \$11,497



Community Housing Account

Current balance: \$55,453

New CPA surcharge revenue: +\$7,300

State match: +\$1,160

Ending balance: \$63,913

Undesignated Fund Account

Current balance: \$362,220

New CPA surcharge revenue: +\$51,100

State match: +\$8,127

South Brook trails grant: -\$67,900

Ending balance: \$353,547



Other CPA Accounts

Budgeted Reserve: \$35,000

CPC Operations: \$2,500

For the detailed budget of any of the proposed CPA grant projects, see the grant applications at shutesbury.org/community_preservation:

