

# *Preserving what's valuable, with your help*

Over the past couple of years, with much maneuvering at town meetings, communities on Cape Cod have opted into the Community Preservation Act. The CPA is an alternative to the land bank that, for years, was the prime funding source for the acquisition of open space land.

The land bank did its job. It kept many environmentally sensitive tracts of land from being developed. Now, the Community Preservation Act has the chance to do the same thing, but also to

help preserve what is valuable in our towns in a wider variety of ways.

Money from the CPA can be used — must be used — on historic preservation, open space, housing development. Towns are mandated to spend at least 10 percent of their CPA funds on each of these categories, but beyond that, they can allocate the money in varying proportions to projects no matter what category they fall into.

If you have not paid attention to the CPA up to this point, now is a good time

to become involved.

CPA committees, although newly formed, have a big job to do and will properly be the focus of a great deal of attention because they have the ability to recommend projects for CPA funding to town meeting.

In Sandwich, while nothing has been formally proposed, some are already looking to CPA money to take care of the ancient Hoxie House and to fix up the track at the high school. These two projects demonstrate the scope of the CPA.

Environmental, housing, cultural, recreational and historical projects all are potential beneficiaries of CPA funds, but only if people in the community come forward with worthwhile proposals.

The days of debating the CPA are long gone. Now is the time for proposals for real projects that have the potential to benefit all of us.

*Visit [www.communitypreservation.org](http://www.communitypreservation.org) to learn more about the Community Preservation Act and to see what other towns have done with their CPA money.*