

# Preserve Groveland

## CPA Interesting Facts:

- Groveland is among 130 communities using CPA for preservation
- Groveland CPC has received over \$560,000 in State match funds to date
- Groveland preserved and improved 2 historic sites and bought 8 acres of open space in 2007

## Project

### Articles:

Washington Hall	2
Shanahan Park	2
2007 Projects	2

## Groveland Community Preservation Committee

### 2008 Town Meeting Votes On Two Projects

Voters at the 2008 Town Meeting will be asked to approve two projects presented by the Groveland Community Preservation Committee.

The first project is being sponsored by *Go Pentucket Soccer* and is being funded under the recreation category. A portion of Shanahan Field will be restored as a park and returned to its natural habitat and beautiful vista along the Merrimack

River. The funding from Groveland CPA funds will be \$12,000.

The second project is being sponsored by the *Groveland Historical Society*. In 2007 Town Meeting approved Phase 1 to rehabilitate and restore historic Washington Hall using historic restoration CPA funds. This year we are being asked to fund the final two Phases of the restoration project.

The request this year is for \$85,000 from Groveland CPA funds mostly under the historic preservation category.

The Groveland Community Preservation Committee endorses both of these projects. We believe both projects add to the character and history of the town. We ask the voters of Groveland to join us in approving them for CPA funding.

### What is the CPA?

The Community Preservation Act is statewide enabling legislation to allow cities and towns to exercise control over local planning decisions. This legislation strengthens and empowers Massachusetts communities:

- All decisions are local.
- Local people must vote by ballot to adopt the Act.
- Local town meetings must appoint a committee of local people to draw up plans for use of the funds.
- These plans are subject to local approval.

The Community Preservation Act provides new funding sources which can be used to address three core community concerns:

- Acquisition and preservation of open space
- Creation and support of affordable housing
- Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes

A minimum of 10% of the annual revenues of the fund must be used for each of the three core community concerns. The remaining 70% can be allocated for any

combination of the allowed uses, or for land for recreational use. This gives each community the opportunity to determine its priorities, plan for its future, and have the funds to make those plans happen.

Property taxes traditionally fund the day-to-day operating needs of safety, health, schools and roads. But until the CPA, there was no steady funding source for preserving and improving a community's infrastructure. The Community Preservation Act gives a community the funds needed to control its future.

## A Museum for Groveland



You may not think of Groveland as having enough historic resources to fill a museum. The members of *Groveland Historic Society* might surprise you with the many artifacts from our past. Indeed if they can complete their dream Groveland may have its own museum housed in one of the first community centers ever built in the United States. This

venerable building built in 1874 is currently being restored with the assistance of Community Preservation funds.

During Phase 1 begun in 2007, work to restore the building's exterior roof, siding and windows was done. Most of that work will be completed this spring.

The Society is asking for additional funds this year

to complete the final two phases of the restoration. If approved, the work will include a ramp and new front stairs. The interior floors and walls will be replaced. Bathrooms, heating system, plumbing and electrical systems will all be added to make the building useful again. The Society plans on a first floor museum and community use of the second floor.

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## Preserving a Scenic Vista on the Merrimack

The Merrimack River is one of Groveland's wonderful natural resources. As it travels through our town it is home to many bird species, plants and wildflowers. Much of the river that travels though Groveland is not accessible to the public. There are beautiful spots that most of our citizens never get to see.

Unfortunately there also a

few public spots along the river that are not scenic. They have become dumping grounds for trash both deposited by the river and that deposited by uncaring individuals.

One such spot is Shanahan Fields along the river. This area which has historic and scenic significance has become messy and full of trash. A trail to the river has become a vandal's haven.

*Go Pentucket Soccer* would like to restore this area back to its natural habitat for wildlife, flora and fauna. It would become a naturalized park for passive recreation and a place for scenic river views. Emphasis would also be placed on making it safe to prevent children from wandering off and encountering the deep river waters. CPC endorses the project and asks for your support.

## 2007 Projects Nearing Completion

At the 2007 Groveland Town Meeting voters approved 4 CPA projects during the first year of Community Preservation in town. The first project, the purchase of 8 acres of open space adjoining Meadow Pond Reservation, is complete. The town voted to spend \$75,000 on the purchase

and raise funds for any remaining expense. The Conservation Commission was able to complete the purchase for \$75,000.

Two projects were approved for Veasey Park. They were a roof repair to a historic building and the addition of electrical improvements to

the park to enable better use of this historic site. One of these projects has been completed and the second is nearly complete.

The fourth project was the Phase 1 restoration of Washington Hall described above. Phase 1 will be complete this spring.