

# Preserve Groveland

## CPA Interesting Facts:

- Groveland is among 140 communities using CPA for preservation
- Groveland CPC has received over \$780,000 in State match funds to date
- Groveland improved a historic building and preserved a scenic vista on the Merrimack in 2008

## Project

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## Groveland Community Preservation Committee

### 2009 Town Meeting Votes On Two Projects

Voters at the 2009 Town Meeting will be asked to approve two projects presented by the Groveland Community Preservation Committee.

The first project is being sponsored by the *Groveland Garden Club* and is being funded under the historic category. The club is responsible for operating the Little Red Schoolhouse, a historic landmark in town. The project calls for the

preservation of Groveland's historic one-room schoolhouse as a town treasure. The funding from Groveland CPA funds will be \$57,000.

The second project is being sponsored by the *Groveland Conservation Commission* and would be funded under the Open Space category. The project involves the purchase of 6 acres of open space land that

adjoins the current 76-acre Meadow Pond Reservation. The funding request from CPA funds is \$ 50,000.

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.

## The Little Red Schoolhouse



At one time Groveland, along with hundreds of other small towns, educated its local students in a small one-room schoolhouse. The North School, a one-room schoolhouse built in 1865 is still situated at its original location in a section of town known as Savoryville.

This venerable building has seen many generations of Groveland

children educated there until 1956 when a burgeoning post-war population outgrew this modest space.

Today the schoolhouse remains as the home of the *Groveland Garden Club* who has been tasked by the town to keep this historic building available for future generations of citizens to learn about education in earlier times. The Club is asking for

funds this year to rehabilitate and preserve the building. If approved, the work will include ceiling repairs, addition of floor support, repair of the stone foundation, plumbing and electrical upgrades and window repairs.

Everyone in Groveland will benefit by preserving a landmark that provides a first-hand experience of local history.

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*"We have a wonderful place to explore and learn about nature right in our own backyard here in Groveland!"*



## Preserving Turtleland

In 2000, during the permit process for a new housing development in South Groveland, endangered rare turtles were found to be living in the area. This encouraged citizens in town to grow interested in learning more about the turtle habitat. Along with the *Groveland Conservation Commission* the citizens began an effort to study the turtles and protect their habitat.

Because of those efforts two purchases of open space were made by the town adding to the original 10 acre parcel. A total of 76 acres are now permanently protected and have come to be known as "Turtleland" after the *Blanding's Turtles* that live there. Georgetown has joined us in this effort to protect the state's second largest habitat for this rare and endangered species.

Late last year we had the opportunity to purchase 6 additional acres of land adjoining the reservation off of Stephenson's Way. The price of the land at \$60,000 will be funded by the town CPA at \$50,000 and a grant from Essex County Greenbelt Association for \$10,000. The addition to "Turtleland" will continue to protect this important habitat area.

## 2008 Project Updates

At the 2008 Groveland Town Meeting voters approved 2 CPA projects. The first project involved a portion of Shanahan Field that was to be restored as a park and returned to its natural habitat and beautiful vista along the Merrimack

The town voted to spend \$12,000 on the permit

process and restoration of the habitat. The project has gone through the permitting and work is scheduled to begin this spring.

Work continues on Washington Hall first funded in 2007 for Phase I and funded again in 2008 for Phases II and III. The

first phase has been completed and most of the efforts will now focus on the internal parts of the building.

The project is sponsored by the *Groveland Historical Society*. The Society plans on a first floor museum and community use of the second floor.