

Town of Dennis

Community Preservation Committee

Application Criteria

The Town of Dennis, by virtue of a public referendum, adopted the provisions of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), M.G.L. c. 40B. The Town of Dennis is pleased to be able to offer Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to applicants who propose projects that will benefit the Town and include one or more of the following:

The acquisition, creation and preservation of open space.

The acquisition and preservation of historical resources.

The creation, preservation and support of community housing; and/or

The acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use.

A project may encompass more than one funding category. The use of Community Preservation Act funds may not include maintenance of real or personal property or the use of land for a stadium, gymnasium or similar structures. Not all projects may be funded, even if funds are available. Funds not awarded will be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

SELECTION CRITERIA

In order to determine funding eligibility and ranking the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will evaluate all applications by the following general and project specific criteria.

GENERAL CRITERIA

Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. How the project meets the goals of the Community Preservation Act.
2. How the project specifically benefits the Town of Dennis and its residents.
3. Compatibility with the Dennis Local Comprehensive Plan, Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan, Dennis Affordable Housing Action Plan, and any other planning documents.
4. Urgency – acquisition, preservation, or rehabilitation of threatened resources. Saves resources where loss is imminent or threatened.

5. Preservation of the essential character of the town or of a neighborhood.
6. Preservation and/or utilization of town owned assets.
7. Produces an advantageous cost/benefit value.
8. Demonstrates practicability and feasibility within budget.
9. Utilizes multiple sources of funding, including public and/or private funds.
10. Serves an under-served population.
11. Meets multiple needs and serves multiple populations.
12. Serves more than one CPA purpose (especially in linking open space, recreation and community housing).
13. Receives endorsement by other municipal boards and/or departments.

Project Specific Criteria

Open Space proposals which address as many of the following specific criteria as possible will receive preference:

1. Permanently protects important wildlife habitat, including areas that are of local significance for biodiversity.
2. Contains a variety of habitats, types of vegetation, and/or a diversity of geologic features.
3. Contains a habitat type that is in danger of vanishing from Dennis.
4. Preserves habitat for threatened or endangered species of plants or animals.
5. Preserves the rural and agricultural heritage of Dennis.
6. Provides opportunities for passive recreation and environmental education.
7. Protects or enhances wildlife corridors, promote connectivity of habitat or prevents fragmentation of habitats.
8. Provides connections with existing trails or potential trail linkages.
9. Preserves scenic views.

10. Borders a scenic road.
11. Protects public water supply.
12. Provides flood control.
13. Preserves important surface water bodies, such as wetlands, vernal pools or riparian zones.

Historical proposals, which address as many of the following criteria as possible, will receive preference:

1. Protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate historic, cultural, architectural or archaeological resources of significance, especially those that are threatened.
2. Protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate town-owned properties, features or resources of historical significance.
3. Protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate the historic function of a property or site.
4. Project is written within a local, State or National Historic Register site, or eligible for placement on such registers.
5. Project demonstrates the ability to provide permanent protection of the historic resource.
6. Project identifies, preserves and enhances the heritage of the Town of Dennis.
7. Project optimizes the use and enjoyment of the Town's historic resources by residents and visitors.

Community Housing proposals, which address as many of the following criteria as possible, will receive preference:

1. Increases the number of units in the town's affordable housing inventory.
2. Promotes a socioeconomic environment that encourages a diversity of income, ethnicity, religion and age.
3. Provides housing that is harmonious in design and scale with the neighborhood.
4. Results in a higher percentage of affordable units than otherwise required.

5. Ensures affordability in perpetuity.
6. Promotes the use of existing buildings or construction on previously developed or town owned sites.
7. Converts market rate to affordable units.
8. Ensures that new community housing is harmonious with the existing community and neighborhood and will incorporate similar characteristics designed to maintain architectural harmony, density consistency, and conserving the natural landscape.
9. Preference will be given to projects utilizing and rehabilitating existing housing stock and other existing structures over new construction.

Recreation proposals, which address as many of the following criteria as possible will receive preference.

1. Supports multiple recreation uses.
2. Serves a significant number of residents.
3. Expands the range of recreational opportunities available to Dennis residents of all ages.
4. Jointly benefits Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission initiatives by promoting passive recreation, such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.
5. Maximizes the use of publicly owned land and waterways.
6. Promotes the use of railway and other corridors to create safe and healthful non-motorized transportation opportunities.