

*Town of*



*Amherst* Massachusetts

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

Monday, December 7, 2020

To the: Town Manager  
Town Council  
Town Council Finance Committee:

Attached is the CPA Committee's Special Report to the Town Council for Fiscal Year 2021. We hope you will find this particular project worthy of your endorsement and approval.

We welcome your questions and we thank you in advance for your support of the Community Preservation Act.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sarah Marshall*

Sarah Marshall, Chair



# Amherst Massachusetts

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

## Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) Special Report to the Town Council for FY2021

The Community Preservation Act Committee is pleased to present this report to the Town Council outlining a special borrowing article we are recommending for Fiscal Year 2021. The Committee has reviewed the Project Funding proposal submitted by the Amherst Municipal Affordable Housing Trust and offers its unanimous support. It is clear that this valuable project may not be accomplished without the support of the CPA at this time, and that the Town must be able to act quickly.

### Rationale

The CPAC receives many worthy proposals each year, and customarily makes an annual recommendation to the Council in the spring of each year of which projects to support. In order to enable the AMAHT to move rapidly to acquire property, the CPAC considered this application outside of its normal recommendation cycle. This application meets CPAC goals for projects that are broadly supported across communities, Town departments, and the public, addresses documented needs for affordable housing, and is achievable in a timely manner.

### Project Details

#### Community Housing

**Municipal Affordable Housing Trust – Project Funding: \$800,000.00 and to bond this amount (Vote: 9-0-0)** – This proposal, as subsequently updated, seeks funding for the acquisition and development of land for affordable housing purposes. Opportunities to secure land suitable for affordable housing are rare in Amherst. The Town and Trust have been in negotiations for the site since November 2020, and this proposal will position the Trust to move quickly to secure and begin development work on the site.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Marshall, chair, LSSE Commission representative  
Sam MacLeod, vice chair, representative at large  
Ana Devlin Gauthier, Conservation Commission representative  
Sarah Eisinger, representative at large  
Robin Fordham, Historical Commission representative  
Andrew MacDougall, Planning Board representative  
Diana Stein, representative at large  
David Williams, Housing Authority representative  
Katie Allen Zobel, representative at large