

Articles 8 & 9: The Community Preservation Act - CPA

WE SPEND \$247,518/YR on average for community preservation. We pay 100% ourselves.

THERE IS A BETTER WAY

MASSACHUSETTS PAYS communities that accept **CPA** matching funds for qualified purposes:

- **Historic Resources**, including reconditioning Boxborough's Town Hall; restoring Steele Farm's house and barn; preserving historic artifacts, records, monuments, stone walls, and cemetery headstones.
- **Community Housing**, including creating affordable housing for families, seniors, young people, and veterans. We can use CPA funds to help reach our 10% affordable housing goal and gain more control over Chapter 40B projects.
- **Outdoor Recreation and Open Space**, including creating or improving playing fields, playgrounds, walking paths, and tennis and basketball courts; preserving agricultural land; protecting water resources; and conserving open land, forests, and fields for public use.

LAST YEAR'S MATCH RATE WAS 52%. It has varied from 27% to 100%.

WE QUALIFY FOR MATCHING FUNDS by voting "yes" on Articles 8 & 9 at Town Meeting, and at the polls in November. This adopts a 1% annual RE tax surcharge, forms a Community Preservation Committee, and creates the Boxborough Community Preservation Fund to hold monies from the surcharge plus State matching funds.

WHAT WE GIVE: The surcharge starts in 2015 and adds \$88/year to the average RE tax bill. **Residents eligible for low income or low/moderate income senior housing are exempt.**

WHAT WE GET: Matching funds start in 2016. The surcharge raises \$162,841. A 52% match would add \$84,677. The \$247,518 total would fund our average community preservation cost for 1/3 less. **The less we pay ourselves, the more we save in taxes, as we could reduce the overall tax levy to offset the surcharge, yielding a lower tax rate.**

WE CONTROL OUR FUND: Town Boards responsible for community preservation, plus the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen, choose Boxborough's nine person Community Preservation Committee. It recommends projects to Town Meeting. **Voters decide how to spend the fund's money**, giving at least 10% to each qualified purpose. We can spend funds each year, or reserve them for later. Spending for qualified purposes can begin in 2015.

WE CONTROL OUR FUTURE: We set the surcharge and can change it at anytime. **There is no minimum.** The maximum is 3%. We can revoke CPA after 5 years and keep remaining funds to spend on community preservation.

-Boxborough Board of Selectmen