



## For Immediate Release:

October 13, 2015

### TOP TEN REASONS TO VOTE YES FOR BOXFORD COMMON

*Boxford, MA* --- There is tremendous support for Boxford Common across the community. The reasons for this support are outlined below. Information about the project has been published in this newspaper, on the Boxford Common Facebook page and at [www.BoxfordCommon.org](http://www.BoxfordCommon.org). Several other organizations and social media sites have kindly assisted in the distribution of information. As a result, the outcome at town meeting on Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 at Masco will be determined by a well-represented and well-informed community. The supporters continue to welcome a healthy, productive, respectful exchange of information and perspectives, as has been the mantra of the Haynes Land Advisory Committee in hundreds of public meetings since the community purchased the land 8 years ago.

Here are the top 10 reasons to vote YES on Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 at Masco.

#### 1) Boxford Common Benefits Thousands

Boxford Common will directly benefit a much larger number of residents than prior Community Preservation projects. Boxford's active recreation programs (predominantly youth sports) have far more non-school participation than any other activity. In any given year, approximately 700 Boxford kids play on athletic fields. Hundreds more Boxford kids, who have moved on to high school and college, were on the athletic fields. Hundreds of families with toddlers, and new families who are buying the homes of empty nesters, are waiting in the wings to enroll in youth sports programs and use our fields. When one considers all of these participants, and their parents who are coaching or cheering on the sidelines, easily half of Boxford's population benefits from this municipal resource.

The paved walking path, first of its kind in Boxford, will be enjoyed by many residents, including adults pushing strollers, seniors, and others who prefer to stay out of the woods. For those venturing into the woods, over 60 acres remain undisturbed, for hiking, running, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding on logging roads and trails.

#### 2) Boxford Common Brings Boxford Kids Back to Boxford

Hundreds of Boxford families continue to leave town for their sports games and practices because we do not have enough athletic fields and some of the fields we have are not suitable for their programs. Synthetic turf will be installed on one of the athletic fields at Boxford Common. Turf is rapidly becoming the preferred playing surface for most sports programs. Almost every town in eastern Massachusetts has a synthetic turf field or is in the process of installing one. Turf does not require mowing, aerating, over seeding, irrigation, fertilizing, liming, spreading herbicides or pesticides, and does not suffer from compaction with frequent use.

#### 3) Boxford Common Promotes the Marriage of Conservation and Recreation

Boxford Common is not only about kids throwing a football or catching a lacrosse ball. It's about a safe, paved walking path, hiking trails, logging roads, ecological restoration, and 60 acres of untouched forest. We purchased 75 acres of Haynes land for recreation and conservation.

4) Boxford Common Preserves and Enhances Our Rural Character

Many residents believe children kicking soccer balls while parents cheer is rural character. The fields and parking areas at Boxford Common are tucked in the woods, not visible from Georgetown Road, Main Street, or Middleton Road. There will not be any street parking. We have two athletic fields and a playground at Boy Scout Park and our rural character is intact. We have two athletic fields and a playground at Cole School and our rural character is intact. We have recess every day at Cole and our rural character is intact. We have gatherings in a new First Church function hall, with parking for 65 cars, and our rural character is intact.

5) Boxford Common will Create a More Vibrant Village

Boxford Common will bring activity to the Village. More families will get together with friends at the Community Store after a field hockey game, a stroll on the walking path, or a jog in the woods. With the former library building now empty, the future of the Community Center/COA unclear, the near loss of a local bank, and the looming possibility of a post office relocation, many residents are concerned about the fate of Boxford Village.

More activity means more traffic. There will be more cars on Saturday in the spring and fall. A traffic study forecasted 568 arrivals throughout the entire day on Saturday, the busiest day at Boxford Common. If lined up at the entrance all at once, the number is unappealing. When spread throughout the day, considering all vehicle trips in and out, traffic is forecasted to average less than two cars per minute. Boxford Common is unique in that families can approach from six different access routes - Depot Road, Elm Street, Georgetown Road, Main Street, Middleton Road, and Topsfield Road.

6) Construction of Boxford Common Will Not Require any New Taxes

The purchase of the Haynes land did not require any new taxes. The planning, design, and professional engineering did not require any new taxes. Construction will not require any new taxes. All funding for Boxford Common came from, and will come from, the Community Preservation account and private donations. Since purchasing the land 8 years ago, the State of Massachusetts has added \$2,300,000 to our Community Preservation account.

7) Boxford Common Fits the Criteria for Community Preservation Funding

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) voted 5 to 1 in favor of funding most of the construction of Boxford Common. Two more committee members were absent from the meeting, but sent letters of support. The membership of the CPC, as defined by its charter, is comprised of representatives from several boards and committees. The near unanimous vote speaks volumes of the broad interest in this project and their comfort level in devoting a majority of the available funds to Boxford Common. The Community Preservation account refills quickly and will be ready to support other projects in the near future. Residents should be aware that CPC funds cannot be used to build new municipal buildings, such as a library or senior center.

8) The Total Incremental Tax for Boxford Common is Projected to be \$21 Per Household

Our athletic fields are a municipal resource benefitting thousands of residents. The DPW maintains these resources for us. Boxford Common will require mowing, fertilizing, sweeping, and other maintenance activities. The additional expense will be approximately \$5.50 per tax bill. Maintenance of synthetic turf requires a sweeping machine. The acquisition cost of a sweeping machine is included in the construction bids. The synthetic turf skin will require replacement every 10 to 12 years. The costs associated with replacement

will be the responsibility of the youth sports programs. Fundraising will commence on the day of the ribbon cutting ceremony and continue for several years with nearly two generations of youth sports parents.

9) Boxford Common is Priced Right

Three of the construction bids were within \$50,000 of each other, which speaks to the accuracy of the pricing. The clustering of the bid number is also a testament to the precision of the work performed by the architects, engineers, and Haynes Land Advisory Committee.

10) Boxford Common is the Result of Thorough Planning and Professional Input

Some contend that Boxford Common was "pushed through the political system." Eight years of thoughtful, detailed, collaborative planning, hundreds of public meetings, approval from all regulatory boards, and strong community support at four town meetings is hardly pushing it through the system.

Vote YES on Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 at Masco. Support common goals for the common good.