

## Conservation Commission endorses CPA

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Editor, Hanson Express:

People often voice their concern about Hanson's diminishing open space to the Conservation Commissioners. In years gone by, large tracts of undeveloped land have become available in Hanson. In many cases, it was Chapter 61 land. This is land whereby, in exchange for the owner receiving a tax reduction for agricultural and forestry usage, they are required to and must be first offered for purchase by the town when the owner removes the restriction and places it up for sale. The sale price is generally fair market value.

Sadly, with a few exceptions, Hanson has never been in a financial position to be able to purchase the available properties. Once these opportunities are lost, they are lost forever and the land is developed. The old Camp Wampatuck—now King's Landing subdivision, 25 acres bordering Franklin St. and land bordering Elm St., which abuts the Burrage Pond Refuge, are but a few of the large tracts of open space which the town had first refusal to purchase and didn't because finances wouldn't allow it. In fact, in Hanson's long existence there have only been a few instances where land was purchased purely for open space. The Smith-Nawazelski land on Elm St. (formerly known as the Stillman property) and the Hoder property off East Washington St. are the only properties, which come to mind. {sidebar id=2}

With the enactment by a yes vote of CPA following the May 17 elections, we would have a source of funding to buy open space tracts of land when they became available. There would be a steady source of funds, which could allow us to either buy outright or borrow the money needed for purchase. In addition to land acquisition, funds would be available for erecting signage on the properties, developing trails, which might include wooden walkways through wet and environmentally sensitive areas, parking, kayak and canoe launching sites, and descriptive brochures of what is offered and how to get to it.

The CPA will make Hanson a better place to live in and help to preserve all those attributes, which people have told us they desire by living in Hanson.

[The committee voted to endorse the CPA by a count of 5-0-0 on March 11. -Ed.]

Hanson Conservation Commission

Philip Lindquist, Chairman

Frank Schellenger, Vice Chairman

John Kemmett, Clerk

Ronald Grattan, member

David Harris, member