

Support Community Preservation Act

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Editor, Hanson Express:

During the month of May, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will commemorate the fourth annual National Preservation Month. The theme of this year's National Preservation Month, "This Place Matters," is meant to alert American citizens to celebrate this country's diverse and irreplaceable heritage. One of the tools to accomplish this celebration is the Community Preservation Act.

In May, at the Town Meeting, Hanson voters will vote on a bylaw to create a Community Preservation Committee. At the May 17 Town Election, Hanson voters will vote on the adoption of the CPA. If the CPA is passed in May, this will create a community preservation fund. A minimum of 10 percent must be used on open space protection, historic preservation and recreational purposes. Hanson has experienced tremendous growth, which has presented the town with many challenges including historic buildings drastically in need of restoration or maintenance without adequate funding. Some buildings affected would be the Thomas Mill, all of Camp Kiwanee, the Grange and historic district school 4. Of course, all historic buildings and land including the famous bogs would benefit from CPA funds. From the perspective of a member of the Historical Commission, I would welcome the benefit of receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars of State matching funds on a yearly basis to care for our town. A 1.5 percent surcharge would mean a tax increase of \$37. There are some additional exemptions for senior citizens.

The idea of the CPA is to preserve the heritage and character of Hanson. While at the same time, the CPA can provide an opportunity to make an investment in the future for our children and grandchildren.

Vote on May 17 and show your civic pride!

Michele Mills, Chairman, Hanson Historical Commission

Larry Mills, Vice-Chairman

Allan Clemons, Town Historian

Joan Powers

Bruce Young