

# The Patriot Ledger

## Community Preservation Act going back on ballot in Abington



Seth Jacobson/Wicked Local Resident Jack Buckley speaks at Abington town meeting on Monday, June 8, 2015, in favor of a referendum on the Community Preservation Act in April 2016.

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**Editor**

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ABINGTON – Even though Abington voters have rejected the state Community Preservation Act before, residents at town meeting Monday night overwhelmingly voted to put the act on the April 2016 town election ballot.

The petition article was submitted by resident Jack Buckley.

“There are 158 communities in Massachusetts that have adopted the Community Preservation Act,” Buckley told town meeting voters, adding that many nearby towns are among the 158.

The Community Preservation Act enables towns to create a local funding stream that can be spent on open space preservation, preservation of historic resources, creation of affordable housing and the development of outdoor recreational areas. Money is raised by levying a property-tax surcharge of up to 3 percent.

Buckley said \$1.4 billion has been raised statewide through the Community Preservation Act, adding that adoption in Abington would add just \$13 to the quarterly tax bill for the average resident.

“And no town has repealed it,” he said.

Resident Anne Reilly argued in favor of adopting the Community Preservation Act, saying it would help with projects like restoring the bridge at Island Grove or building more playgrounds.

“It would help preserve our community,” Reilly said.

Resident Lawrence Kehoe said Community Preservation Act money could help with maintenance of the veterans memorial and other monuments.

Selectman Ken Coyle said he understands why people may have objections to the act.

“Let’s be straight here. This is a tax,” he said. “A lot of people are struggling out there. We just approved a new school.”

Coyle the tax burden from the school project is already demanding a lot from town residents.

“We are talking about less than \$50 per year (in property taxes for the average homeowner),” Buckley said, talking about the Community Preservation Act.

Also approved at town meeting Monday night was a \$42.4 million operating budget for fiscal 2016.

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