

The Time is Right for Brookline to Adopt the Community Preservation Act, Question #2 on May 4th Ballot

My belief is that by the May 4th Town Election, a sense of hope and optimism will take hold, an appreciation of what governments such as Brookline can offer, including what the Town can do to improve lives, honor our heritage and values, shore up our common domain, and enhance our infrastructure.

As of now, a year in, the COVID-19 related economic measures taken so far have been strikingly effective, having benefited from the lessons of the recent Great Recession. Thus, neither the Commonwealth nor the Town have suffered the severe fiscal setbacks originally feared.

Passing the Community Preservation Act (CPA), Question #2 on the May 4th ballot, promises state matching funds plus other State, Federal, and private matches that would multiply Brookline's ability to expand and support affordable housing; enhance Brookline's parks, open space, and recreational facilities; and protect the treasures of Brookline's historic heritage.

Some claim this is the worst possible time to ask voters to vote YES, adding a 1% Community Preservation surcharge on Brookline's property tax.

Actually, there is unlikely ever to be an excellent time to ask for an increase in taxes. But as times come and go, this may actually turn out to be a better time than critics believe or assume.

The surcharge for a \$8,000 tax bill would be an additional \$80.

For Brookline, the Community Preservation Act is part and parcel of these new opportunities and substantial possibilities. Over 180 communities, including Newton, Concord, Lexington, Cambridge, Boston Somerville, and Arlington have passed the CPA. It is time that we join our sister communities and take advantage of this program.

You can help. When meeting with candidates for town-wide office and town meeting members, ask them to endorse the CPA. When you are in touch with your neighbors and friends, urge them to vote YES on Question 2 for the Community Preservation Act.

Vote for hope, the promise of a better future in Brookline, and for dreams achieved. Send a message to Brookline's leadership. Vote YES for question #2 on May 4th.

David Lescohier
Town Meeting Member, Precinct 11, Winchester Street

<http://www.brooklinecommunityact.org>

Brookline Community Preservation Campaign Committee