



# **Citizens for Lexington Conservation**

PO BOX 292, LEXINGTON, MA 02420-0003

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**Kate Fricker, Editor**

**February, 2007**

**Eileen Entin & Keith Ohmart, Co-Chairs**

## **CANDIDATES' FORUM ISSUE**

**Citizens for Lexington Conservation, Inc. devotes this annual issue of its newsletter to candidates' statements in order to help you, the voter, cast your ballot effectively. All candidates for office were sent a letter soliciting their response to the following question (not all responded):**

The Community Preservation Committee is proposing that the Town provide \$125,000 to fund a Master Plan for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor. This project is the necessary first step in developing a network of bicycle and walking trails that would connect all of Lexington's conservation lands on the west side of Route 128. The Master Plan would provide the Town with the resources to apply for additional State and Federal financial support to construct this trail system in future years. The centerpiece of this project would be the construction of an unpaved bicycle trail, similar in quality to the Minuteman National Park's Battle Road Trail, connecting the Minuteman Bikeway with the Battle Road Trail. The creation of such a trail network has broad support in the planning documents of various town boards and committees including the Town's Vision 2020 Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Open Space Plan. This project is being co-sponsored by the Town's Recreation Committee, the Conservation Commission, the Lexington Conservation Stewards, and the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Do you feel it is an appropriate use of a portion of Lexington's CPA money to provide seed money that might allow the Town to qualify for substantial future financial support in realizing some of its long range goals that would not otherwise qualify for inclusion in the annual operating budget? (The use of CPA money for this purpose has been approved by other communities across the Commonwealth.) If you feel that this is not a proper use of CPA funds, what alternative suggestions do you have for the Town to realize some of its long-range conservation and passive recreation goals, such as this project?

**CLC dues (\$12 or \$15) for 2007 are payable now.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_ \$ 12.00 Basic Membership

\_\_\_\_ \$ 15.00 Supporting Membership

\_\_\_\_ \$ Contribution

\_\_\_\_ \$ Total

Please tell me how I can assist CLC projects in the following areas:

\_\_\_\_ Natural History

\_\_\_\_ Stewardship

\_\_\_\_ Organizing Annual Meeting

\_\_\_\_ Writing for Newsletter

\_\_\_\_ Land Conservation

\_\_\_\_ Organizing Fall/Spring Walks

\_\_\_\_ Take charge of the CLC web site

\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_ Check here if you would like to have your newsletter sent as an email attachment (in color, with live links), instead of the black and white paper edition.

Mail to: CLC Inc., P. O. Box 292, Lexington, MA 02420-0003



**CLC Annual Meeting**

Thursday, April 12, 7-9 pm in the large lecture room, lower level, Cary Memorial Library.

Our featured speaker will be John Maguranis, currently Belmont's Animal Control Officer, and an expert on coyotes. His presentation, illustrated with brilliant photographs, will cover coyote behavior, identification, and coexistence with humans..

John Maguranis is a retired US Army veterinary technician. He became Belmont's Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector in 2001. He has studied, tracked, and photographed eastern coyotes for the past 5 years, and has written many articles, TV/cable and newspaper pieces. He has given testimony at the State House regarding coyotes, and has provided information to State Officials in Rhode Island. To date he has provided over 35 presentations to organizations, cities/towns, school and colleges across the state and New Hampshire.

The annual meeting is free and open to the public. A short business meeting to elect Board members will precede the presentation.

**CLC does not endorse any candidate.**

Rather, we urge you to read the candidates' statements, make your own decisions, and VOTE for your candidates on Monday, March 5.

# CANDIDATES FOR TOWN-WIDE OFFICES

## Candidate for Moderator

**Margery Battin**  
781-862-3639 [battin@alum.mit.edu](mailto:battin@alum.mit.edu)

The use of CPA money to provide seed money that might allow the Town to qualify for substantial financial support in realizing some of its long range goals that might not otherwise qualify for inclusion in the annual operating budget deserves careful consideration by Town Meeting.

As Moderator, however, I cannot give my opinion on this use of CPA funds. If the Moderator is to preside fairly and impartially over Town Meeting, her opinion on issues, persons or groups should not be known.

All questions facing Town Meeting deserve balanced, thoughtful consideration.

Therefore, the Moderator should make certain that the subject under debate is clear, town meeting practices and procedures are understood, and all points of view are fully explored. As Moderator I feel it is my role to protect and improve the process by which decisions are made which can affect the quality of life in Lexington. Last spring I held a meeting with town boards, committees and the TMMA to critique and refine the streamlined Town Meeting procedures that had been instituted to enable members to concentrate on the issues more quickly.

As Moderator I will continue to do everything possible to see that Town Meeting members receive the information needed to make informed choices and that citizen participants thoroughly understand Town Meeting procedures. Citizen article sponsors have been sent written instructions to aid them in preparing for Town Meeting. These citizens will be included in the Moderator's meeting with article sponsors during which we establish Town Meeting format, timing, chronology and note areas of potential disagreement. A workshop will again be held for new Town Meeting members to answer questions, explain legal issues, parliamentary procedures and land use as well as financial terms and concepts. I

will be readily available for consultation and explanation of meeting procedures to all citizens and officials wishing to be heard at Town Meeting. I will write a newspaper article to explain the protocol for citizen participation.

## Candidates for Selectman

**George Burnell**  
781-674-0226 [www.Burnell4Selectman.com](http://www.Burnell4Selectman.com)

In my opinion, the proposal to develop a Master Plan for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor is exactly the kind of project that the voters had in mind when they approved the Community Preservation Act. It not only meets the criteria, it combines conservation and recreation components, with the expectation of leveraging the project with State and Federal funding. Although there is much work needed to refine the concept into an operable plan, connecting the two bikeways utilizing existing conservation land in a way that preserves the environment while enhancing our enjoyment of it, happens to be right on target as a project for the Community Preservation Act.

## Jeanne Krieger

I congratulate and thank those Lexington residents who have conceived of the idea of a West Lexington Greenway Corridor and have worked diligently to make it happen. The use of \$125,000 of CPA funds as seed money to secure long term funding for the bike and pedestrian trails connecting Lexington's conservation lands on the west side of Route 128 is eminently reasonable. It is my understanding that the Community Preservation Committee has already recommended the expenditure and I will certainly support its approval at Town Meeting.

This proposal for seed money uses CPA funds as they should be used, as a way to leverage taxpayers' dollars to gain even greater value for the community. An extended trail network will serve current and future generations not only by enhancing recreational opportunities, but also by linking two potential commuter routes, thus providing an incentive to minimize dependence on passenger cars, an important goal for a sustainable community.

## Candidates for School Committee

**Margaret E. Coppe**  
781-862-2637 [mcoppe@rcn.com](mailto:mcoppe@rcn.com)

The Minuteman Bikeway is one of the most successful projects in Lexington and has enhanced recreational opportunities, promoted use of non-polluting transportation modes, and contributed to an increase in the quality of life for people from many communities.

I am in favor of applying for CPA funds to develop a Master Plan for more bicycle and walking trails that would connect both within and outside of Lexington and will support that request if it comes to Town Meeting for a vote. This is an appropriate use of a funding mechanism that was approved by a vote of the citizens in the March 2006 elections. I supported passage of the CPA, recognizing that it allows Lexington to obtain funds for recreational, historical, and housing needs that would otherwise be difficult to fund within the municipal budget.

### **Alan Seferian**

I feel this Master Plan lies within the scope contemplated by the CPA, and would be an appropriate use of funds. The only constraint I would add is this project would probably find itself competing with other proposed uses of CPA funds. Each project would need to compete on its own merits, as advocated by their respective proponents. Thus your organization would need to be a champion of this project. Based on this initial correspondence I have received from CLC, you appear up to the task.



**Maple Blossom**

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING

### Precinct 2

**Rita B. Goldberg**  
781-862-2258 [goldberg@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:goldberg@fas.harvard.edu)

I fully support increased walking and bicycle trails west of Route 128. They are a natural progression from the resources we already have in the Minuteman Bikeway and the Battle Road trail. As enthusiastic walkers, my husband and I are often stopped by cyclists asking us how to get from one to the other. At the moment we have no easy answer for them. Investing in these trails is an investment in the future for our own residents and for visitors who make Lexington a destination when they visit New England. It also protects areas of historic significance and natural beauty from indiscriminate development.

Under the tough economic conditions Lexington faces now, use of CPA money puts minimal financial pressure on town resources. The \$125,000 in seed money for the Master Plan will allow us to qualify for the matching state and federal funds we need to bring the project to fruition; otherwise the town would never be able to afford it. This outcome would be good for everyone. It deserves the wide support it already has from town sponsoring committees and from concerned citizens.

**Andrew McAleer**  
[ASMcaleer@aol.com](mailto:ASMcaleer@aol.com)

I support the Community Preservation Committee's proposal to request \$125,000.00 to fund a Master Plan for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor.

According to the Conservation Committee such a Master Plan would provide Lexington "[W]ith the resources to apply for additional State and Federal support to construct this trail system in future years." I have served as a Town Meeting Member and on the Board of Directors with the East Lexington Community Association for nearly a decade and one of my main concerns has always been conservation. Any conservation project that might preserve open space and yield additional outside funds deserves serious consideration. My only concern is that already I count at least six committees that may be involved in this project

and, while I feel an open dialogue is almost as important as open space, I do not want to see this project paralyzed by over analysis.

Accordingly, while I support the CPC's proposal, it is my hope that the Board of Directors of the Citizens for Lexington Conservation will have the sole authority to steer the participating committees. Such authority would save time, money, and would help Conservation bring the master plan to fruition.

**Nancy Nolan**  
[nan.lex@verizon.net](mailto:nan.lex@verizon.net)

I believe that this is an appropriate expenditure of CPA funds. Once this master plan is developed, Lexington can apply for federal and state funds that will help develop this important conservation/recreation project. The construction of this connection between our conservation lands and the Minuteman Bikeway and Battle Road Trail would allow residents to walk and ride bicycles in a more extensive area. Walking and bicycling paths encourage people to get out and enjoy nature, encouraging them to respect the natural world while teaching younger generations to enjoy the natural beauty of our area. This is something that will benefit every Lexingtonian, no matter what age.

**Adam D. Sacks**  
781 674-2339  
[adam\\_artist@yahoo.com](mailto:adam_artist@yahoo.com)

I wholeheartedly support the use of CPA funds for the West Lexington Greenway corridor; if it leads to additional state and federal financial support, such action is even more compelling. We need to do our utmost to protect the local environment, and provide opportunities for our citizens and guests to enjoy and use our natural resources sustainably for recreation and people-powered transportation.

**Betsey Weiss**  
781-863-5602 [Betseyweiss@hotmail.com](mailto:Betseyweiss@hotmail.com)

The CPC has recommended an appropriation for the West Lexington Greenway Master Plan Study of \$125,000 to Annual Town Meeting. As a

member and chair of the CPC, I feel this is an appropriate use of CPA funds. The current request, which was sponsored by the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Committee, the Bicycle Committee, and the Lexington Conservation Stewards, is to develop a Master Plan to connect Lexington's Minuteman Bikeway with the Battle Road Trail in Minuteman National Historical Park along with a network of passive recreation trails west of Rte.#128. The Master Plan is necessary to apply to federal and state funding sources for future construction of the trail.

This project promotes recreation and open space which are two goals of the Community Preservation Act as well as Lexington's Comprehensive Plan, Open Space Plan, and the Town's 20/20 Plan. This project would most likely not be funded by the Town due to the Town's fiscally tight budget so the recommended use of

CPA funds for this project is exactly why CPA was passed by the Massachusetts State Legislature and by Lexington last March. Lexington will receive matching funds from the state on October 15, 2007 of approximately \$2.3 million that will offset the cost of this study along with other CPA projects that Annual Town Meeting will vote on and have final approval.

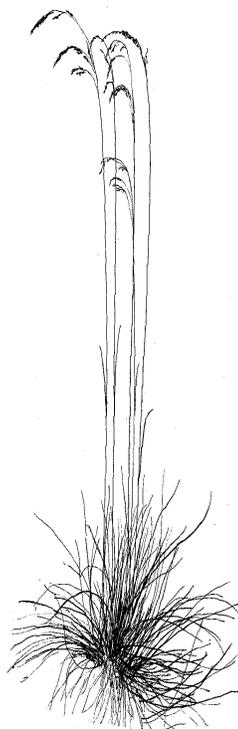
Many boards in Town have sent letters in support of this project to the CPC: the Planning Board, Citizens for Lexington Conservation, Lexington Friends of the Minuteman Bikeway, and the Transportation Advisory Committee.

### **Precinct 3**

**Patrick Mehr**  
781-372-1055  
[patrick.mehr@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.mehr@gmail.com)

Yes, as a Town Meeting member, I support using CPA funds for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor Master Plan and will continue to:

- fight for open space and a healthy environment: I co-authored Lexington's first ever tree by-law and successfully advocated for its adoption by Town Meeting in 2001;



- promote initiatives to save money and keep tax increases minimal: aggressive energy conservation in our schools and town buildings will also help us fight global warming;
- pursue innovative approaches: a Lexington municipal electric utility (replacing NStar) will use more renewable energy, cut our electric bills, reduce power outages and place wires underground.

**Alex Nedzel**  
**781-862-7823** [alex@nedzel.com](mailto:alex@nedzel.com)

As a Town Meeting Member, I would support this expenditure. I believe it to be important and fully worthy of the town's attention. Consequently, I would gladly support it as a CPA project. However, I do believe that CPA monies should be spent only on projects, such as this one, that Town Meeting would consider even in the absence of CPA funding. The rationale for the CPA itself, which I embraced on the Appropriation Committee when recommending adoption and as a Town Meeting Member when voting YES, is that it: (1) makes us eligible for state matching funds for a portion of our expenditures, and (2) compels the Town not to overlook taking at least a minimum degree of responsibility for conservation, recreation, housing, and historical preservation relative to other priorities. I do not view the CPA as a license to spend money on miscellaneous projects outside our regular budgeting process. Why, with a limited amount of money available from all sources, would we want to spend money on a project that we collectively feel is not as important as others we are opting not to do?

**Peter Lee**  
**781-862-8867** [leefamlex@yahoo.com](mailto:leefamlex@yahoo.com)

I wholeheartedly agree with using CPA funds for this project. I am an avid supporter of tastefully developed outdoor recreation projects such as the West Lexington Greenway Corridor.

I voted in favor of the CPA, and am encouraged that CPA resources are being used to fund the Master Plan not only to determine feasibility, but also as a means to leverage additional municipal funding for the Western Greenway project. I believe that the seed money is a good investment in the project by Lexington and feel that all stakeholder communities (including Waltham,

Belmont, and Arlington) should make similar contributions.

A cursory review of the map on page 8 of a recent CLC newsletter appears to show Waltham and Belmont as major beneficiaries of the Western Greenway project. I look forward to hearing more as this project progresses and stand willing to help where possible.

**Loren Wood**  
**781-862-1278 (H) 781-981-3380 (W)**

I feel it is very appropriate to use a portion of Lexington's CPA money to provide \$125,000 to fund a Master Plan for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor. This is exactly the kind of project the CPA was intended for and why I voted for it in Town Meeting. This is the type of project that might be difficult to fit into the Town's Annual Operating Budget and the alternative source of funding provided by the CPA is vital to the project's success. The matching funds provided by the State under the CPA are an important added bonus. The Greenway Corridor would serve two of the CPA's objectives, Open Space and Recreation. Connecting Lexington's conservation lands on the west side of Route 128 leverages each of the parcels and the resulting synergy would add greatly to their value.

## Precinct 4

**Margaret Heitz**  
[mbheitz@msn.com](mailto:mbheitz@msn.com)

Open space for casual recreation like walking and biking is vital to everyone, young and old, in Lexington. But open space disappears quickly if we don't take steps to protect it. I fully support the use of money from the Community Preservation Act funds as seed money for the master plan of a West Lexington Greenway Corridor.

**John J. Krawczyk**  
**781-863-2009** [ijkrawlexington@gmail.com](mailto:ijkrawlexington@gmail.com)

Yes, I feel that this is an appropriate use of Community Preservation funds. This network of trails would be a great recreational asset for the town which might not otherwise be funded.

**Charles Lamb**  
[charles.lamb@rcn.com](mailto:charles.lamb@rcn.com)

I strongly support use of CPA funds for the West Lexington Greenway (WLG). The Minuteman Bikeway and Minuteman National Historic Park are both valuable town assets and the WLG will enhance these two paths by connecting them. As part of my duties on the Capital Expenditures Committee, I have met with the proponents and discussed their proposal.

While some project details need further refinement, I would like to see this project move forward.

**John S. Rosenberg**  
781-861-9568 [john.rosenberg@harvard.edu](mailto:john.rosenberg@harvard.edu)

As a regular Bikeway bicycle commuter to Alewife Station, and a regular walker along all of the National Park trails and many of Lexington's trailways, I support development of the proposed Greenway Corridor. I am not fully familiar (yet) with all the details of the proposal, but I do endorse use of Community Preservation Act funds for planning of such projects; similar planning monies have already been appropriately approved for historic preservation projects in town, so the local precedent is clear. The logic is even clearer when such up-front funding provides the needed leverage to secure state, federal, or other funding; naturally, a project of this size will require substantial financial support for design and engineering, and construction, and ultimately, maintenance. It is not a given that local CPA funds can or should provide all or even a significant part of the financing needed to support those essential steps; my endorsement of the planning funds now is just that.

**Sandra Shaw**  
781-862-4415 [sj.shaw@verizon.net](mailto:sj.shaw@verizon.net)

We are indeed fortunate that Lexington citizens voted last year to establish a Community Preservation Fund, in which monies raised through a tax surcharge are matched by the state, for local initiatives in historical preservation, open space, community housing and recreation. The Greenway Corridor Proposal is a perfect example of an innovative project which meets nearly all of the CPA criteria. The Greenway Master Plan which has been voted for funding by the CPC is the

important first step in the future creation of a unique recreational resource providing access to the Town's open spaces in West Lexington. Without CPA funding, projects such as the Greenway Proposal, would be difficult to realize in current tight municipal budgets. I am privileged to be serving on the Community Preservation Committee as the Recreation representative, and wholeheartedly endorse this fine proposal which will expand the range of recreational opportunities for Lexington citizens of all ages and abilities. Thanks to the CLC for making this exciting proposal the focus of their candidate forum.

## Precinct 5

**Marilyn Fenollosa**  
[mmt.fenollosa@verizon.net](mailto:mmt.fenollosa@verizon.net)

The CPA was enacted to enable communities to spend funds on quality-of-life projects that would not otherwise be funded due to pressing infrastructure and education needs that limit discretionary funding in our cities and towns. The West Lexington Greenway Corridor is precisely such a project, and the ability to attract state and federal funding will significantly affect its viability. As a member of the Community Preservation Committee I voted to support this project; as a Town Meeting Member I would do the same.

**Carol Liff**  
[Carolliff@aol.com](mailto:Carolliff@aol.com)

I support the use of funding from Lexington's CPA money for the Master Plan for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor. Preserving and enhancing open space and recreational and natural sites remains a core value of the Lexington citizenry. This is borne out by the support of this project by many town committees including the Town Recreation Committee, the Conservation Commission, the Lexington Conservation Stewards, and the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Having worked on the town's 20/20 plan on the educational committee, I am particularly pleased to see ideas from the 20/20 Vision, such as this, being addressed.

**Masha Traber**  
[mtraber@rcn.com](mailto:mtraber@rcn.com)

I am in full support of using CPA funds for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor. I have been a

constant user of the Minuteman Bikeway since it was first paved - and before. I have seen the full plans for the Corridor and it is incredibly exciting. Getting more people to move around town without using fossil fuels is the wave of the future. More people would be able to enjoy our beautiful natural resources on a much more intimate scale.

## **Precinct 6**

**Mark Andersen**

**781-307-1944 cell, 781-674-0261 home**

As someone who enjoys bicycling to work in Lexington, when possible and when safe, I strongly support using CPA money as seed money in improving alternative means of transportation. It is imperative that we identify and facilitate every opportunity to use modes of transportation which are safe, encourage exercise, and lower pollution. Alternative transportation helps maintain our community's general health as well as improving the desirability of our neighborhoods.

Apart from the Minuteman Trail, the state of bicycling in Lexington is highly variable. I understand that a bicyclist was killed last year on Waltham Street. Having seen my car hit by a driver leaving a commercial property at the confusing Marrett Road and Waltham Street intersection, I appreciate how hazardous it is to bicycle near some intersections. I look forward to improved transportation planning which takes cars off the road, improves safety for cyclists, and enhances the health of our community.

While supporting a West Lexington Greenway Corridor, I am naturally concerned about Lexington's total budget in the face of failed overrides, and pending large capital expenditures (DPW, School administration, replacing elementary schools, and senior center). Therefore, the objective of using CPA money as seed money, and then drawing on available state and federal funds to complete a project would be a most desirable outcome for our whole community. I hope you will support my campaign to be a fiscally pragmatic, progressive Town Meeting member in Lexington. Thank you.

**Florence Baturin**

**781-862-5811 [florencebaturin@verizon.net](mailto:florencebaturin@verizon.net)**

I support this proposal to fund a Master Plan for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor. I feel this is a very appropriate use of CPA Funds. It falls within the intended use of CPA monies. Creation of a trail network would be beneficial on many fronts: preserve the historic quality of the land, help the environment by providing a trail system for environmentally-friendly bicycles and recreational walking, create a place for passive recreation, and connect two existing trails.

This plan was not created specifically for the purposes of obtaining CPA funds; rather, the concept was developed by the citizenry as part of the 2020 Vision Plan and has been articulated in many planning documents. It is well thought out and has a broad base of support among town boards, committees and citizens. As a Town Meeting member, I would vote in favor of this project.

**Alan Lazarus**

**[alazarus@rcn.com](mailto:alazarus@rcn.com)**

I do feel that it is appropriate for Lexington to provide \$125,000 from the CPA funds for a Master Plan for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor. My only reservation is that the expenditure has to be balanced against other CPC-endorsed uses for the money. It sounds great, has support from conservation groups in Lexington, and provides seed money for future financial support. The details are crucial in deciding how I would vote in Town Meeting.

**Dawn McKenna**

**781-862-8777 [dawnforlexington@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnforlexington@yahoo.com)**

As a strong and early supporter of the Community Preservation Act, I fully support the efforts to fund appropriate town projects with CPA funding. My support for CPA was in part recognition that in every visioning that had been done in Lexington, citizens had always placed a high priority on preservation of open space. Given the cost of real estate, and the constraints of Proposition 2½, it had become increasingly difficult for the Town to continue its tradition of proactively acquiring conservation land. One of the values of CPA has been the ability of communities to leverage taxpayer dollars to obtain grants, public-private partnerships, and other creative financing. With

this background, I believe it is not only appropriate but responsible to use CPA money to develop a master plan. First, the master plan will ensure that we are not reactive in our approach to acquiring land in the West Lexington Greenway Corridor. It will allow all affected town committees to weigh in on a long-term vision for what assets the community should own and protect in the Corridor. In addition, once those properties are identified, it will give us complete information that can be used for grant applications and other financing documentation. This is exactly the type of project that is important for the long-term quality of life in Lexington that would not be possible without the additional funds provided to us under the CPA.

**Richard Pagett**

**781-862-1294** [irpagett@rcn.com](mailto:irpagett@rcn.com)

As a member of the Community Preservation Committee, I voted favorably on this request. I'm pleased our committee was unanimous in its support of the recommendation to request Town Meeting's appropriation of funds for the West Lexington Greenway Corridor master plan and I will support it at Town Meeting if I am elected.

**Frank Sandy**

**781-862-1365** [fsandy@rcn.com](mailto:fsandy@rcn.com)

As a member of CLC for over 35 years and as one of its first presidents, I have a long history of supporting acquisition of conservation land and the improvement of its trails for public use. I have worked on some of the volunteer teams, headed by the Conservation Stewards, that constructed the boardwalk trails in our conservation areas.

One of the original purposes of the Community Preservation Act was acquisition and improvement of conservation land. The West Lexington Greenway Corridor is an excellent example of such a project. The Minute Man Bikeway and the Battle Road Trail are among the most used recreational facilities in Lexington. Connecting them would be a superb addition to this trail system.

The use of CPA money as seed money in obtaining state and federal money for this project is an excellent way to leverage our limited funds.

Of the two dozen proposals for use of Community Preservation Act funds, since its adoption in Lexington, this is one of the best.

**Deborah Strod**

**781-862-7910** [deborah\\_strod@yahoo.com](mailto:deborah_strod@yahoo.com)

After reviewing the initial proposal at the Town Hall, the supplementary material provided to the CPC, and speaking with one of the sponsors and a member of the CPC, I believe that the Master Plan for the proposed Greenway is an appropriate use of CPA funds for recreation. The project clearly meets requirements of the CPA, is based on proposals made years ago which have gone unfunded, and is consistent with long term planning the town has gone undergone. Part of the purpose of the CPA is to ensure that at least some such projects see the light of day despite other fiscal pressures.

The project provides a good model of the kind of funding strategy we need in as many areas as possible – where money we do spend is leveraged to bring in other dollars. My opinion is also influenced by the high likelihood of federal funding for the construction of the Greenway itself - the Connector creates an alternative transportation route for those who would like to bicycle into towns further in toward Boston, and others have received even higher funds for projects with similar alternative transportation goals.

It does not seem to have closed out any other projects – there is still plenty of CPA funding left even after all the CPC-approved projects are forwarded to Town Meeting, and more money is due from the State in October.

I do hope that any reasonably anticipated continuing maintenance cost (such as some mowing of part of the Connector), and any potential revenue boost (perhaps from increased bike traffic through Lexington) will be mentioned in the presentation to Town Meeting. I do not demand that every governmental project be revenue neutral or positive - in fact, I think government should be, in part, about those very things which are needed but not profitable - so even if the potentially small operating charges outweigh any revenue which might to come to the Town, I still believe there are reasons enough to do the Study which would obtain the funds for construction. But I do think we should have reasonable guestimates on those points when we ultimately vote on construction and hope the study will help provide such.

Lastly, I like that the Greenway project provides another chance to forge even more regional connections with our neighboring towns. Such partnership approaches to common issues often have served the Town well. They are particularly necessary when dealing with environmental issues.

## Precinct 7

**George Burnell**  
See Candidates for Selectman

**Patricia Elen Costello**  
781-862-6435 [patcostello@rcn.com](mailto:patcostello@rcn.com)

Conservation has been a major component of the Community Preservation Act from the very beginning. Your proposal that \$125,000 of Lexington's CPA funds be used for a Master Plan for the West Lexington Greenway Corridor is very appropriate, particularly since it would provide a resource needed to apply for future State and Federal financial support. Finding funds outside the town budget to complete these types of projects is more of a guarantee that the projects will be completed in a shorter time frame.

**Joyce Miller**  
781-862-8858 [joyce.a.miller@rcn.com](mailto:joyce.a.miller@rcn.com)

One of the interests included in the Community Preservation Act is space. This proposal benefits both open space and recreation. I support the expenditure for a Master Plan and think this is an appropriate use of CPA funds. Having a plan will allow for a more efficient use of both money and manpower and will be helpful to other land use projects as well.



## Precinct 8

**Nancy Bartlett**  
781-862-4631 [nbartlett@rcn.com](mailto:nbartlett@rcn.com)

Yes, I believe that it is appropriate to use a portion of Lexington's CPA money to fund a Master Plan for the West Lexington Greenway Corridor. In 2006 I voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act and believe that the allocation of funds collected through CPA towards the Greenway Corridor project is not only appropriate, but befitting the mission of the CPA. The extension and linking of bikeways across the community and local area exemplifies the Act's intent to create and preserve land for recreational use that complements our current community landscape.

Additionally, the Greenway Corridor has the potential of being an exciting project for Lexington by offering recreational opportunities, an environmentally-responsible commuting alternative and economic development. My home borders the Minuteman Bikeway and I appreciate on a daily basis the contribution this resource makes toward Lexington residents, nearby communities and visitors. It is fiscally responsible to allocate resources from CPA today towards such a project that will allow Lexington to qualify for the necessary financial support to bring The West Lexington Greenway Corridor to fruition.

**Elizabeth (Lisa) Bryant**  
781-862-3131 [lisaibryant@rcn.com](mailto:lisaibryant@rcn.com)

I am very much in favor of the town's providing \$125,000 to begin the process of connecting a substantial part of Lexington's conservation lands. The proposal has garnered an impressive list of endorsements from town boards and committees. One only has to experience the high use of the Minuteman bike trail and conservation lands such as Willard Woods to appreciate that any additional trails for walkers and bikers will be put to frequent use and appreciated by town residents

We are so fortunate in Lexington to have the land which enabled the design for this project. What better way to preserve a community than to provide space for people to enjoy the beauty of our woods, free of the intrusions of traffic and almost free of the mechanical noises that interrupt so many of our activities? Furthermore, the project promotes healthy lifestyles by facilitating easy

access to a large geographic area of conservation lands. We should certainly take advantage of the opportunity to qualify for future funds to complete this project. The entire community will benefit from the completion of the Lexington Greenway Corridor.

**David Horton**  
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I support allocating \$125,000 from Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to create a master plan for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor because the plan could lead to the construction of a network of bicycle and walking trails that would enable people to fully enjoy conservation land on that side of our town. The idea of connecting the Minuteman Bikeway with the Battle Road Trail will mean that people who value recreational bicycle riding will have greater opportunity to enjoy their sport in a safe, beautiful setting. It strikes me that Lexington is a town in which many people enjoy walking outdoors as a way to keep physically fit. "Tread mills" may help to burn calories, but they certainly cannot provide the pleasure that walking through conservation land can provide! Build new bicycle and walking trails and connect existing ones and "they will come," the bicyclists and walkers, that is!

I also believe that we as citizens of the town are stewards of the conservation land that we so highly prize. One way to broaden and increase the awareness of its importance and value to the town in the eyes of our residents is to make as much conservation land as possible accessible and available to people to enjoy, while being careful to preserve the unique qualities and characteristics of the land that attracted people to it in the first place. People will be more inclined to support conservation land and feel they have a stake in it when they have personal experiences with it. The proposed Greenway Corridor can serve that purpose!

The study is a good use of CPA funds and is consistent with the provisions and goals of the act that provide such rich opportunities for communities like Lexington that have adopted it.

**Alan M. Levine**  
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I feel that it is appropriate to use CPA funds for the development of worthwhile conservation and recreation projects, and that it is to the Town's advantage to use CPA funds for a project that will later be funded by Federal or State grants. However, before I make a commitment to vote to approve the Western Greenway planning, two things must happen.

First, as a Town Meeting member I must consider the priority of each project that is recommended by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for CPA funding relative to other possible uses of CPA funds. This year, the Town is negotiating the purchase two parcels of open space though we won't know until later whether those negotiations are successfully concluded. The purchase of either parcel would be funded by the CPA. These negotiations are private; the public (myself included) has not been told the locations, sizes, possible costs, etc. of the parcels. Until the details of the proposed land purchases become public, it will not be entirely clear as to what the available CPA funds can cover. The CPC will also be recommending a number of other projects for CPA funding (these are unlikely to require the use of all of the CPA funds that will be available in FY 2008).

Second, before making a firm commitment in favor, I need to learn more about the proposed Western Greenway, e.g., the details of the route, whether there are serious problems in terms of wet areas, road crossings, ownership, etc., what the cost of construction might be, and what the prospects will be for funding via grants.

In summary, the proposed project has a lot of potential but needs to go through a reasonable approval process.

**Alan Seferian**  
See Candidates for School Committee

## **Precinct 9**

**Margaret E. Coppe**  
See Candidates for School Committee

**Laura Hussong Kole**  
781-910-8035 cell, 781-863-8035 home

Connecting the Minuteman Bikeway and the Battle Road Trail would be an excellent use of Lexington's CPA money. Bike trails around town are used very heavily by commuting bikers, walkers, moms with strollers, runners and more. The connection would not only be popular with the people using it, but would be safer for everyone by keeping trail users off the street

Public recreation is one of the intended uses of CPA funds, and trails are mentioned specifically in the CPA. We should jump at the chance to use the money for such a worthy project.

**Francine Stieglitz**  
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The request for seed money to fund a Master Plan for a West Lexington Greenway Corridor is exactly

the type of project that should be funded by the Community Preservation Committee. The development of walking and biking trails that will connect Lexington's conservation lands west of Route 128/95 would reduce the emphasis on automobile traffic through those areas as well as promote an alternative -- and healthier -- means of travel.

The Transportation Advisory Committee, of which I am a member, has voted to support the Lexington Conservation Stewards' and the Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee's request for funds while encouraging the Committees to seek input from abutting neighborhoods as well as from Minuteman National Historical Park. As an abutter to the proposed paths, I am pleased that a first step in that direction has now been taken. Our neighborhood will be meeting with the Committees within the next few weeks to discuss some of the challenging issues of the proposed route.

### **Middlesex Conservation District Spring Plant Sale**

Friday, April 27 (3-6 pm) and Saturday, April 28 (8am - 12noon) 4H Fairgrounds, South Chelmsford Rd, Westford, MA.

The sale features tree and shrub seedlings, perennials, herbs, fruits, groundcovers, and garden supplies. All items may be ordered in advance by calling 978-692-9395 to request a brochure. All proceeds benefit Middlesex County conservation programs.

### **Lexington Friends of Trees Kick-off Meeting**

The Lexington Tree Committee is supporting the establishment of a Lexington Friends of Trees organization. The mission of the organization will be to inspire community stewardship of our urban forest by bringing people in the Town of Lexington together to plant, care for, and learn about trees in our community. The three pillars of the organization are service projects, education and community outreach. Service projects will include participating in the Lexington street tree inventory, helping at the Town's new tree nursery, eradication of invasive species (e.g. Bittersweet, Garlic Mustard) which harm tree health, organizing neighborhood tree planting, and other tree-friendly projects the members might propose.

An organizational meeting will be held on April 5 at 7:30 pm in the large meeting room of Cary Memorial Library. Please save the date!

A "charter" board of directors to guide this organization for just the first six months is being formed; if you would be interested in helping set up the initial projects, or if you have other questions, please call Gerry Paul at 781-861-6279.

### **CLC Publications**

Guides to the conservation land of Lexington and other interesting materials are available on the CLC website: <http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>