

# West Boylston Land Trust



March 2007  
Issue #9

[www.wblt.org](http://www.wblt.org)

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## **Save the Date**

**Tuesday, May 8 2007**

**WBLT Annual Meeting**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
*(Details to follow)*

**Tuesday, March 27th**

**Presentation about CPA**  
**by Kathy Roth of the**  
**Community Preservation**  
**Coalition**

**7:30 pm**  
**Our Lady of Good Counsel**  
**Church Hall**

## **Area Land Trust Group**

Since last summer, the trustees have been having informal talks with representatives of land trusts from four neighboring towns – Holden, Paxton, Princeton, and Sterling. The purpose of these discussions is to try to learn if we could have stronger and more effective land trust organizations if we were to work collaboratively in some aspects of land trust business. The process of land protection is becoming increasingly complex; In addition to the various tax and other required official filings we must take care of annually, we are all faced with the need for technical assistance in more and more aspects of our operations. Moreover, each organization currently has it's own procedures for membership recruitment and renewal, raising public awareness and educating and disseminating information to members and to the community. We are investigating whether we would be better off, individually and collectively, to have a new type of relationship – one that retains a local West Boylston presence and focus, while also having the advantages of being part of a larger land trust collective. Naturally we will keep all of our members abreast of the findings pertaining to this ongoing discussion and investigation.

## **CPA Vote on April 3**

Last year, the Trustees of the West Boylston Land Trust voted to endorse adoption of the Community Preservation Act ("CPA") by the Town of West Boylston. The CPA, enacted in 2000, provides a dedicated source of matching state funds for annual distribution to participating cities and towns. In October of 2006, the state dispersed \$58,666,783 to 111 eligible communities. This amount, coupled with the local CPA surcharges for those towns, translates into almost \$118 million in available funds for statewide civic improvements in this year alone. Ten percent of the funding must be allocated for open space funding, ten percent for affordable housing, and ten percent for historic preservation – and the

remaining seventy percent may be used for recreation and/or any of the three areas mentioned above.

A local committee was formed in 2006 and has gathered over 300 signatures to get this proposal on the ballot for the April 3rd election. The average surcharge for a West Boylston resident would be \$53. In addition, there would be an exemption of \$100,000 from the assessed value of a property and there would be exemptions for low income households and for low or moderate income senior households.

We think that this is a unique opportunity to have funding available for land acquisition, preservation of farmland, forests, scenic vistas, and protection of water resources. In addition there may be opportunities to have funding for playing fields, hiking and bike trails, parks, community gardens, tennis courts, pool, skate parks, etc.

### **Pine Glen Update**

We would like to bring our members up to date regarding several points about our property on Goodale Street, Pine Glen

1. The annual Spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 – from 9:00 to noon. Please come with gloves, a trash bag, pruning shears and other miscellaneous tools. Gifts of shade loving plants would be welcome. Refreshments will be provided.
2. We are looking for people who can help us lay out and build the entry path to the property, as well as the meeting area under the big white pine tree. For more information please call:  
George Bernardin 508- 853-4362

3. We are also trying to find people who would be willing to stop at the property occasionally to pick up trash and to “sound the alarm” if we have major repair or cleanup needs. If you would like to become a Pine Glen Warden or give us any other type of assistance, please let us know.

### **Membership Renewals**

Many thanks to our many loyal members who have renewed their memberships for 2007. We very much appreciate your support and hope that we can earn your continued support for our land protection efforts in the Town of West Boylston. Unfortunately, sometimes it can take years and years of effort and cultivation to bring a land protection effort to a successful conclusion. We are doing our best and “hanging in there.” Hopefully some of these efforts will bear fruit over the next few years. In the meantime, please let us know if you have any ideas about a land protection situation that we should look into, or if you have any questions or suggestions for us.

### **Officers and Trustees**

George Bernardin, President  
508-835-4362  
Mike Peckar, Treasurer  
508-835-2959  
Dave Sweetman, Secretary  
508-835-3761  
Betsy DeMallie, 508-835-4361  
Julianne DeRivera, 508-835-3713  
Ted Gallagher, 508-835-4840  
Diane Gilson, 508-835-9859  
Gerry Gomes, 508-835-2719  
Aaron Goodale, 508-835-3704  
Tom Halpin, 508-835-4522  
Bob Tashjian, 508-835-6258

# CPA

## Community Preservation Act

### Lecture

Tuesday March 27

7:30 pm

Our Lady of Good Counsel

**Kathy Roth, of the Community Preservation Coalition, will make a presentation about the CPA and will be available to answer your questions. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the CPA and we encourage everyone to attend. Light refreshments will be served.**

**Please keep in mind that April 3rd may be the only opportunity that you will have to vote for the CPA in the Town of West Boylston. If you decide that you are in support of this initiative, please vote and please encourage your friends to vote as well.**

The polls will be open April 3 from 12:00 noon until 8:00 pm.