

**ARTICLE 20: PLANNING STUDY TO CREATE A RAILROAD  
INTERPRETIVE SITE**

*Proposed by: Community Preservation Committee, Wayland Historical Commission, and  
Wayland Historic District Commission* *Estimated Cost: \$15,000*

To determine whether the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Historical Commission for an assessment and viability study as part of the Wayland Historical Commission's railroad restoration and preservation initiative; and to determine whether such appropriation shall be provided by taxation, by transfer from unappropriated funds, by transfer of funds already appropriated for another purpose, by funds received as grants from the Commonwealth or the Federal Government, by borrowing, or otherwise.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** The Town of Wayland's unique collection of railroad artifacts is recognized by the Massachusetts Historical Commission as noteworthy, unique in the Commonwealth, and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Important structures include the Freight House (in the Library parking lot) and the Wayland Depot (already on the National Register); partially obscured objects include the engine house foundation, turntable pit, and lamp, whistle, and stop sign posts. It is the hopes of the Commission to create an interpretive site that preserves those artifacts and creates an opportunity for Wayland residents to better understand the importance of the railroad in our town's social and economic history. Given recent attention to determining improvements to Wayland Center, the CPC and the Historical Commission feel this is a timely effort that would benefit from CPA funding.

**ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR:** The funding for this project would come from Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, which have already been collected by the Town. The CPA mandates at least 10% of receipts be earmarked for historic preservation initiatives; 10% for open space; and 10% for affordable housing.

A favorable vote by Town Meeting will not increase the Town's tax rate; CPA funds to be used for this initiative have already been collected.

**ARGUMENTS OPPOSED:** Although the law requires at least 10% of collected CPA funds to be allocated to historic preservation initiatives, Wayland's CPC can choose to "bank" funding for the benefit of a future historic preservation initiative. There may be other, more pressing, historic preservation initiatives that will require future funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee recommends approval. Vote: Unanimous.

**QUANTUM OF VOTE:** Majority – see Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5, and Chapter 44, Section 33B. For borrowing, two-thirds – see Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7.

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