

Application for Boxford Community Preservation Act Funding

Name of Applicant: Stiles Pond Advisory Committee

Sponsoring Organization: ConsCom/Board of Health

(if applicable)

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of Proposal: _____

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| CPA Category | Open space | Historic preservation |
| (circle all that apply): | <u>Recreation</u> | Community housing |

CPA Funding Requested: Partial (TBD)

Total Cost of Proposed Project: \$50,000 to \$75,000

Project Description

Attach answers to the following questions. Include supporting materials as necessary.

1. **Goals:** What are the goals of the proposed project?
2. **Community Need:** Why is this project important? Does it address needs identified in existing town plans?
3. **Community Support:** What is the nature and level of support for this project? Include letters of support, if any.
4. **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical elements?
5. **Credentials:** How will the experience of the applicant contribute to the success of this project?
6. **Success Factors:** How will the success of this project be measured? Be as specific as possible.
7. **Budget:** What is the total budget for the project and how will CPA funds be spent? All items of expenditure must be clearly identified. Distinguish between hard and soft costs.

8. **Other funding:** The Boxford CPA Committee expects that applicants will offer alternative sources of funding to cover a portion of the total cost of the project. What additional funding sources are available, committed or under consideration? Include commitment letters, if available, and describe any other attempts to secure funding for this project.
9. **Maintenance:** If ongoing maintenance is required for your project, how will it be funded?
10. **Preservation:** CPA projects require deed restrictions limiting the use of the interest to the purpose for which it was acquired. Please attach a copy of your proposed deed restriction.

Additional Information

Provide the following additional information, as applicable:

11. Documentation that you have or will have control over the site, such as Purchase and Sale Agreement, option or deed.
12. Evidence that the project does not violate any zoning ordinance or any other laws or regulations.
13. Evidence that the proposed site is free of hazardous materials or that there is any plan for remediation in place.
14. Evidence that appropriate professional standards will be following if construction, restoration or rehabilitation is proposed.

Submit to:

Boxford Community Preservation Committee
Boxford Town Hall
7A Spofford Road
Boxford, MA, 01921

Rehabilitation and Preservation of Stiles Pond

Stiles Pond is the only pond in Boxford serving multiple recreational activities including swimming, boating (including kayaking), fishing, the Town Beach, and four summer camps for children. In a 1995 study for Boxford under the direction of the BOH, Stiles was characterized as a mesotrophic (middle-aged) pond in the life cycle of a pond leading, eventually, to becoming a bog. Overall, the study determined that Stiles was a healthy pond. Since that study, however, increasing amounts of blue-green algae, *Cyanobacter*, have occurred in Stiles. The 1995 study reported no *Cyanobacter* in algal sampling. *Cyanobacter* occurrence indicates that nutrient loading (mainly increases in nitrates and phosphates) is increasing in Stiles. This is leading to increased eutrophication (the process by which an entire body of water, or parts of it, becomes progressively enriched with minerals and nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus) and premature aging of the pond. Some *Cyanobacter* species can also produce toxins that can cause health problems in humans and animals. Responding to this increasing degradation of Stiles Pond, the ConsCom and BOH appointed an *ad hoc* committee, the SPAC, to address how the town can slow or halt the eutrophication of Stiles Pond and work to rehabilitate the pond.

1. Goals:

1. Establish the current state of eutrophication of Stiles Pond and changes since 1995.
2. Determine methods to limit or reverse the current state of Stiles Pond Eutrophication including direct action on the pond and regulation/bylaws to limit nutrient run-off into the pond.
3. Prepare immediate and long-term plans for the Town to stop further eutrophication, and rehabilitate the pond to preserve its recreational and conservation value to the Town

2. Community Needs

All ponds in Boxford are viewed as critical components of wetlands and ground water providing the town with clean and safe drinking water, as well as environments for a wide range of plants and animals. Of all the ponds, only Stiles Pond is also used as a recreational area for swimming, boating (including kayaking), and fishing; including the Town Beach and four summer camps for children. These activities provide for recreational needs to all segments of Town residents.

3. Community support

Support for this project has already been voiced by major users of Stiles Pond including the BAA (Town Beach), the summer camps, and residents on the pond. In addition, the SPAC has received positive feedback from a mailing to abutters within the watershed and from the table hosted at the Apple Festival.

4. Timeline

It is the intent of the SPAC to issue a RFP (Request for Proposal) to accomplish the first two goals in January 2024. Based on the proposals received, the SPAC would plan on submitting an Article to the 2024 ATM for approval and funding of the program from either or both the CPA and the Town.

5. Credentials

The program would be administered by the SPAC with input and guidance from the ConsCom and the BOH. Members of the BOH managed an earlier study on Stiles Pond addressing the health of the pond in 1995. Members of the BOH also have direct experience with the testing methods and approach that will be used to establish the first two program goals as well as direct experience with *Cyanobacter*. The third goal will involve all appropriate Boards and Committees in the Town and would be a continuation of the proposed project.

6. Success Factors

Success of the first two program goals will be measured by the results of the studies and conclusion of the outside contractor as judged by the SPAC, ConsCom and BOH. The success of program goal 3 will depend on what steps the Town decides to take to preserve and rehabilitate Stiles Pond.

7. Budget

The primary, direct cost of the project will be determined by the response to the RFP and will be known by March 2024. The cost of the 1995 program was \$50,000. While that study was done on seven Boxford Ponds, the study proposed for Stiles Pond will be asking for more detailed and advanced analysis methods 25 years after the 1995 study. We estimate the cost of a new study, including analysis results and detailed methods to achieve Goal 2, will be from \$50,000 to \$75,000. We will have a firm cost by 1 March 2024.

All other review and planning work (Goal 3) will be done by Town Boards and Committees. The resulting plans will likely involve additional costs that will be addressed at that time and subject to Town approval.

8. Other funding

If CPA funding is approved for a portion of the proposed program, we propose asking the Town at the 2024 ATM for the rest of the funding necessary for accomplishing goals 1 and 2.

9. Maintenance

No costs for maintenance are foreseen to accomplish the project goals.

10. Preservation

Given that Stiles Pond is within the jurisdiction of the Town (as granted by DEP), no deed restrictions are required for the proposed project work. Restrictions are already in place, through BOH regulation on septic systems near the pond.

11. Site Control

The site is within the jurisdiction and under the control of the Town of Boxford.

12. Ordinance or Regulation Violation

No zoning, conservation or Board of Health regulations or ordinances will be violated in performing the proposed study.

13. HazMat

The proposed study will be limited to Stiles Pond. No known HazMet material is known in or around the pond.

14. Professional Standards

No construction, restoration or rehabilitation will be carried out in the proposed study. All testing and data interpretation by the project contractor will be carried out according to EPA/MEPA standard operating procedures and reviewed by professionals with direct experience with such methods on the BOH.