

Town of Lynnfield, Massachusetts



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PLANNING BOARD

December 21, 2020

Select Board
Lynnfield Town Hall
55 Summer Street
Lynnfield, MA 01940

Dear Board Members:

On behalf of the Lynnfield Conservation Commission, I am writing to inform you that the board has unanimously voted to recommend that the Select Board exercise its right of first refusal for the Richardson Green parcel.

In its November 17, 2020 meeting, our board heard the updated presentation from the Richardson Green Citizens Working Group. Formed in September, this group has worked diligently to research this right of first refusal opportunity, including the distribution of a town-wide survey to gauge residents' interest.

These survey results, compiling nearly 500 online and print responses, show that over 80% of respondents feel it is "very important" that this 20-acre parcel remain as undeveloped forested conservation land. Over 90% of respondents believe the Select Board should exercise its Right of First Refusal to purchase this property, and over 80% indicate that they are "very likely" to incur an additional \$24 – 32 in order to support this purchase. Among the various benefits of maintaining this land as undeveloped open space, over 90% of respondents specifically identified the continued protection of the nearby wellfields that supply nearly 60% of the town's drinking water supply.

In support of our recommendation, our Commission recorded two votes; The board unanimously voted to authorize the use of \$200,000 from its Conservation Fund in order to initiate fundraising through grant funding and private donations; it also voted to authorize up to \$15,000 to fund a required federal appraisal should this project progress. Members expressed much enthusiasm in their individual comments leading up to the board votes.

I hope that the pledging of these funds will emphasize the importance of this opportunity to preserve approximately 20-acres of undeveloped land where many of our neighbors are concerned about additional development, further strain on town resources, and issues regarding water supply from the Lynnfield Center Water District, which this land directly abuts.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this recommendation from our board.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Donald Gentile, Chair
Lynnfield Conservation Commission

Cc: Rob Dolan, Town Administrator