

Article 9: Appropriation to Conservation Fund

Conservation Commission

Presentation at Warrant
Committee Open Hearing
March 14, 2022

Purpose of Article 9: Appropriation to Conservation Fund

- **Replenish** the Town of Dover Conservation Fund
 - **Add \$25,000 to Fund**
- Allows the Conservation Commission to **acquire and protect Dover's open space for public use in perpetuity**
 - Authorized by M.G.L. Chapter 40, Sec. 8C
- Since 1980's, Fund held between \$50,000 and \$150,000
 - Annual appropriations of \$25,000 or \$50,000 most years
 - **Motivates and leverages private funds**

Appropriation was skipped during COVID-shortened Town Meetings, **please re-initiate the replenishment**

Why Rebuild the Conservation Fund Balance?

- As a result of recent contributions, the **Conservation Fund balance currently stands at \$51,629**
- Commission believes that **building the Fund back up to its prior balance of \$150,000 is critical**
 - **Maintain the Town's ability and flexibility** to initiate or advance efforts to protect significant open spaces
 - **Protect our vulnerable natural resources**
 - **Preserve our rural character**
 - **Ensure public access** to our key open spaces

The Conservation Commission respectfully requests
your approval for the FY23 Appropriation of \$25,000

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Questions?

Conservation Fund Background

- Fund is authorized by M.G.L. Chapter 40, Sec. 8C to provide the Conservation Commission with the ability to **meet its mandate for acquiring, preserving and protecting Dover's open space**
- From 1980's to 2014, the Fund was maintained at between \$50,000 and \$150,000
 - From 1994-2001, \$215,000 was raised through Town Meeting Articles, generally in \$25,000/year increments
 - From 2002-2013, funding paused since land value appreciation was thought to render the Fund irrelevant
 - In 2013, a **Fund commitment was instrumental in kick-starting the Brodie acquisition** (matched 2x by private)

Conservation Fund Leverages and Motivates ~2x Private Funds

Property (year)	Acres	Conservation Fund (Other Town)	Private Funds (most via DLCT)
100 Centre St (1997)	7.0	\$25,000 (\$130,000)	-
Wylde Woods (2001)	62.0	\$100,000 (\$3,100,000)	\$1,100,000
Brodie (2013)	8.0	\$150,000	\$300,000
Porter Woodlands (2017)	21.3	\$25,000	\$50,000 Adams* \$2,300,000
Blake (2018)	36.0	\$50,000	\$2,250,000
Dover Church Woodlot (2022)	8.5	\$25,000	\$25,000 Adams* \$750,000
Total since 1997	142.8	\$375,000 (\$3,230,000)	\$6,775,000

* Arthur Adams Bequest to Conservation Commission

Conservation Fund is Efficient

- Conservation Fund has been used to acquire or help acquire parcels of land and conservation restrictions to be '**retained for conservation and passive recreation use**' (M.G.L. Chapter 40, Sec. 8C)
- Recently, the Fund has allowed the **Town to purchase Constriction Restrictions (CRs)** on land, rather than outright ownership
 - Permanently protect more acres of vulnerable open space by **leveraging private contributions**
 - **Ensure public access forever**
 - **Reduce the maintenance cost burden** on the Town