Hopkinton Area Land Trust

2014 Annual Meeting of Members

David S. Goldman, P.E.

President Hopkinton Area Land Trust, Inc.

September 14, 2014; 2 – 4 PM Hopkinton Fire Station Conference Room

September 14, 2014



Why Permanently Protected Space is Important to You

- A quick tutorial on the value of Open Space
 - 1. Real Estate & Property Values
 - 2. Municipal Taxes & Expenditures
 - 3. Real Estate Development and Property Values
 - 4. Investment vs. Return



Real Estate & Property Values

- People and businesses want to locate next to high-quality parks and open spaces. In general, the higher the quality of a park or open space, the greater the demand for property near the park or open space. That demand translates directly into higher property values and greater municipal tax revenues. Research conducted by The Trust for Public Lands, Center for City Park Excellence has found that "excellent" parks and open spaces tend to add 15% to the value of a nearby property. Problematic parks and open spaces, however, can subtract 5% of a home's value. ^{64, 65}
- ⁶⁴ The Trust for Public Lands, Measuiring the Economic value of a City Parks System (2009)
- ⁶⁵ Ernst & Young, Analysis of Secondary Economic Impacts Resulting from Park Expenditures (New York, NY: New Yorkers for Parks, 2003)

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Municipal Taxes & Expenditures (1)

In addition to increasing property tax revenues through increased property values and generating new sales tax revenues from visitiors, land conservation saves Commonwealth communities money through avoided costs on expensive infrastructure and other municipal services requested by residentially developed areas such as <u>schools</u>, <u>police</u>, and fire protection, and others. Studies have consequently shown that open space and working lands contribute more in taxes than they require in municipal services. Residential land, however, contributes less in taxes than it receives in municipal services, representing a net loss to local governments. The <u>national median</u> <u>across 151 communities over 25 years is that for every \$1 paid in local taxes, working land and open space require \$0.35 in services while the average home requires \$1.16 in services.⁶²</u>

⁶² American Farmland Trust, Cost of Community Fact Sheet (Northampton, MA Information Center, 2010)

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Municipal Taxes & Expenditures (2)

- <u>Studies in Massachusetts all communities</u> undertaken by the American Farmland Trust confirm these findings. <u>Open space and</u> working farms and forest require an average only \$0.43 in services for every \$1 in tax revenue generated by those lands. Residential land, meanwhile require \$1.10 in services for every \$1 generated in tax Revenue. ⁶³
- In a 1999 report and in general terms, current <u>non-residential</u> <u>service costs for Hopkinton are \$0.75 per square foot annual</u> <u>service cost for every \$1 in revenue. Further, the study found that</u> <u>the residential service costs for Hopkinton are \$1.35 in municipal</u> <u>service costs for every \$1 in revenue</u>.⁶⁴ Open space was not sutdied or mentioned but, the service cost would be lower than non-residential (read commercial/industrial) properties.
- ⁶² American Farmland Trust, Cost of Community Fact Sheet (Northampton, MA Information Center, 2010)
- ⁶³ Ibid
- ⁶⁴ "Organizing for a balanced Fiscal Future: Land Use, Political Culture & Town Finance", Judi Barrett, June 30, 1999, Community Opportunities Group, Inc., Connery Associates, for the Town of Hopkinton Massachusetts

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Real Estate Development and Property Values

- Open space preservation in Massachusetts also supports economic development by simulating real estate development (and re-development) while boosting property values and thereby increasing municipal tax revenues. Studies have shown that the value of property adjacent to either public or privately owned open space is measurably higher that that of comparable properties without this amenity. The value is even greater when the adjacent open space land is permanently protected.⁵⁷
- An academic study that examined the amenity value of proximity to Great Meadow National Wildlife Refuge, located 20 miles west of Boston found that a property located 200 meters (almost 650 feet) closer to the refuge increases the sale price of the average property almost \$2,000.58
- Another study found that an average home in Lynnfield, Massachusetts is \$34,600 more if located near open space, an increase of 6.7% in property value. This increase in value generates an additional \$415 in town property taxes per house annually.⁵⁹
- Local trails are also a highly desirable amenity among homebuyers. Homes near the Minute Bikeway and Nashua River Rail Trail sell in 21 days on average, or 45% faster than other comparable homes and sell closer to their list price.⁶⁰
- ⁵⁷ US Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service. Cooperating Across Boundaries: Partnership to Conserve Open Space in Rural America (2006)
 ⁵⁸ Brad C. Neumann, Kevin J. Boyle, and Kathleen P. Bell, "Property Price Effects of a National Wildlife Refuge: Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Massachusetts" (Land Use Policy 26, No. 4, 2009, pp 1011-1019)
 ⁵⁹ Amber Donnelly, "Measuring the Value of Open Space: A Hedonic Study: (Bachelor's thesis, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA
- ⁶⁰ Craig Della Penna, Home Sales near Two Massachusetts Rail Trails (Northampton, MA: The Murphys Realtors, Inc. 2006)

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Investment vs. Return

 The Trust for Public Land conducted an economic analysis of the return on the Commonwealth investment (read CPA) in land conservation through a variety of state funding programs and found that for every \$1 invested in land conservation returned \$4 in natural goods and services in Massachusetts



Conclusions Why Permanently Protected Space is Important to You

- Lower or stable real estate taxes
- <u>Higher value</u> of homes adjacent to open spaces and trails
- <u>Quicker sales</u> of homes adjacent to open space and trails.
- Maintenance of the rural character of Hopkinton



Who We Are

- The <u>Hopkinton Area Land Trust</u> is a Federal 501(c)(3), State Chapter 180, Not-for-Profit Corporation, incorporated in 1995
- Membership and Volunteer organization
- Currently governed by a nine member, dedicated, board of directors (two original directors still serve since we were founded in 1995)
- Many members, friends, supporters, and donors in the Hopkinton and surrounding area



Officers and Directors

Officers

- David S. Goldman, PE, President
- Edwin Brohm, Treasurer
- Mary C. O'Brien Pratt, Secretary & Clerk

Directors

- 1. David S. Goldman, PE, Chairman and Director for Land Acquisition & CRs (Founding Member)
- 2. Edwin Brohm, Treasurer, Director for Grants and Newsletter Editor
- 3. Mary C. Pratt, Clerk (Founding Member)
- 4. Brian Garrett, Director for Fund Raising
- 5. Jeff Furber, Director for Stewardship
- 6. Gail Clifford, Director for Scholarship
- 7. Beth Rohlfs, Director for Trails
- 8. Mavis O'Leary, Director for Community Relations
- 9. Kenneth Parker, Director at Large



Who We Aren't

- HALT is NOT the Hopkinton Open Space Commission (OSPC)
 - OSPC is supported by Hopkinton Tax Dollars form the Community Preservation Committee
- Community Preservation Committee
 - Overseer of the tax monies collected from Hopkinton Taxes and partially matched by the State
- There is a <u>mistaken perception</u> that the Hopkinton Area Land Trust is a part of the Town (Hopkinton Open Space Commission) and supported by tax dollars



Our Vision

Provide a continuous trail around the entire town. A "<u>Green Necklace</u>" if you will.

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What We Do

- Acquire and protect open space in and around Hopkinton
- Accept the donation of land, Conservation Restrictions, money and other assets
- Develop trails, often working with local scouting organizations (Eagle and Gold, public service projects)
- Promote conservation and passive recreation
- Educate the public on land preservation and conservation issues
- Award college scholarships to conservationminded Hopkinton students



What We've Accomplished

- Approximately 1000 acres of open space owned or under conservation restriction (or in process)
- Miles of trails that are actively used by the community
- Applied for nine and won eight grants for trail development, trail signage and trail repairs
- Dozens of \$250 scholarships awarded
- Nurtured a growing endowment
- Geocaching Program on trails and properties
- Increased Trust awareness through newsletters, articles, events and a web site



Properties and CRs

Properties

- Wiley Woods* $\sqrt{}$
- − Brook Hollow*√
- Deer Run/Brickhill*√
- Hopkinton Highlands I* $\sqrt{}$
 - Zettek Overlook*√
- Hopkinton Highlands II* $\sqrt{+CR}$
- Hopkinton Highlands III**
- Spring-Hill I & II*
- Old North Mill I & II* $\sqrt{}$
- Deneen-Scarlatta* $\sqrt{2013}$
 - Connector to Peppercorn Trail
- Hill Street* Erna
- Clinton Street* Kotob
- Wilson Street, Zettek *
- South Mill Street, Braim Farm*
- 44 South Mill Street*
- Canterbury Lane**
- Peloquin Estates** 2014/15
- Commons/Rocky Woods Rd.***
- Austin Powder Open Space*

- **Conservation Easements**
 - EMC 228 South Street*
 - EMC 52 South Street*
 - Terry High School Property*
 Center Trail*√√
 - Hopkinton Meadows North St.* $\sqrt{}$.
 - Whitehall Property*√ w/FoW
 - Fruit Street Property* $\sqrt{2013}$
 - Phipps Woods * $\sqrt{}$ 2013
 - Braden Woods* 2013
 - − Cameron**√ 2014/15
 - Whisper Way* $\sqrt{12}$ 2014/15
 - Drowne Saddle Hill RD**
 - Brook Hollow DeGozzaldi***
 - Deneen-Austin Powder*√
 - to LMPA June 2014
- Sylvan Way Open Space** 2015
- Property owned or Conservation Easement Granted
- **Property or Conservation Easement in process
 *** On-Hold
- √ Denotes a Trust Trail
- $\sqrt[4]{}$ Denotes Trail under development



2014 Accomplishments

- Received the Austin Powder Open Space (6.6 Acres) & \$1,400 Endowment
- Placed a CR on Combine Deneen Austin Powder Open Space with the Lake Maspenock Preservation Association (13.6 Acres)
- Awaiting Peloquin open space transfer, 16.67 acres and contribution to the endowment fund (\$2K) (in progress)
- Finished the Whisper Way CR & sent to the State or final approval
- Received the Phipps Woods Conservation Restriction, 12.27 acres and a contribution to the Endowment Fund (\$2K pending)
- Received the Braden Woods Conservation Restriction, 7.79 acres and a contribution to the Endowment Fund – (\$2K pending)
- Had Town Meeting pass article allowing CR on Cameron Woods
- Continue the transition to an open membership organization
 - Membership is now at 150 members
 - Fourth annual Meeting
- Increase the number of Geo-caches on trails & Properties

2014 Accomplishments

Continued the Geocache-on-Trails and Properties Program

- Whitehall Conservation Area (WCA) (GC34KJH, N 42° 14.142 W 071° 34.298);
- Karl Mighton Trail (KMT) (GC34X6Q, N 42° 13.065 W 071° 28.329);
- Deer Run, Andersen's Trail (DRT) (GC34X5Y, N 42° 14.870 W 071° 29.895).
- Wiley Woods Trail (WWT) (GC3YKRN, N 42° 14.607 W 071° 29.207)
- Douglas Sands Trail (DST), (GC3YKV2, N 42° 14.738 W 071° 32.918)
 - Multiple stage Cache
- Zettek Overlook (A&CZO), (GC4ARF1, N 42° 15.079 W 071° 32.954)
- Hopkinton Center Trail, (HCT), (GC4BJ6D, N 42° 13.158 W 071° 31.619)
- Since inception of the program the Trust has had;
 - Geocache Master Dr. Michael Babcock
 - 54 visits to the Whitehall Conservation Area
 - 51 visits to Deer Run Andersen's Trail
 - 47 visits to the Karl Mighton Trail
 - 38 visits to the Wiley Woods Trail
 - 16 visits to the Sands Trail
 - 34 visits to the Zettek Overlook
 - 35 visits to the Center Trail
- 275 total to date; 174 total visits last year on all properties and trails
 - Deneen Austin Powder Trail
 - Betty Fitzpatrick Trail (Hopkinton Highlands II)
 - 3 or 4 more caches to be placed in the next few months

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2014 Accomplishments (further details)

Properties and Conservation Restrictions Booked in 2013

- **Booked in 2013**
- **Properties**
 - Braim Farm II; 9.1 Acres; Donor: George Connor, Connorstone Inc. 12/24/2013
 - Deneen Open Space 5.53 Acres Deneen Trust3/18/2013
 - Endowment: \$500 5/15/2014
- Conservation Restrictions
 - Fruit Street Conservation Area
 - Town of Hopkinton (Co-held with Sudbury Valley Trustees)
 - Endowment \$5,000 share 6/25/2013
 - Phipps Woods Conservation Area 7.33 +/- Acres Town of Hopkinton 6/25/2013
 - Endowment \$2,000 (Received)
 - Braden Woods Conservation Area 7.79 +/- Acres Town of Hopkinton 6/25/2013
 - Endowment

\$2,000 (Received)

145 +/- Acres



2014 Accomplishments (further details)

Properties and Conservation Restrictions Booked in 2014

3/13/2104
13.6 +/- Acres
6/6/2014
16.37 Acres
\$2,000
6.6 +/- Acres
\$2,000
126.35 +/-
\$13,000
16.25 +/- Acres
\$2,500
4.9 Acres
\$2,500



2014 Accomplishments (further details)

• <u>Grants</u>

- Town of Hopkinton Trail head Signs \$ 7,500
 - CPC funding (bill directly to the Town of Hopkinton (2014 2015 FY)
- Town Meeting passed Article to allow Town to place a CR on Cameron Woods
 - and provide an Endowment of \$13,000
- Town Meeting passed Article to allow Town to place a CR on Whisper Way
 - and provide an Endowment of \$ 2,000



Eagle Scout Service Project

2014

- Jake Krapf (Troop 1); Hopkinton Highlands II; Betty Fitzpatrick Trail ٠
 - **Complete: Eagle Received**
- Cameron Field (Troop 1); Zettek Overlook; Refurbishment ٠
 - **Complete: Eagle Received**
- Cyrus Freshman (Troop 1); DeGozzaldi Conservation Area; Refurbishment
 - In-Process
- Ryan Turano (Troop 4); Phipps Woods; Trail marking and clearing & baseline documentation
 - Complete; awaiting Court of Honor
- Henry Vumbaca (Troop 4); Deneen Austin Powder Open Space; Trail ۲ connector to the Peppercorn Trail, foot-bridge & baseline documentation
 - **Complete; Submitting Paperwork**

		2015					
•	Trevor Perkins (Troop 1)	Whisper Way Trail & Baselin				
•	Matthew Paolucc	i (Troop 1)	Fruit Street Trails & Bridge				
•	Sam Darkow (Tro	oop 1)	TBD				
onto	mber 1/1 201/	Honkinton Area Land Trust	Inc. 21				



Stewardship Program

- Cameron:
- Deneen-Austin Powder:
- Phipps Woods;
- Fruit Street
- Zettek Overlook
- Brook Hollow
- Spring-Hill
- Mighton

John Ritz Carol Esler Beth Rohlfs Nancy & David Goldman John & Selina Paolucci Margie Wiggin Marilyn Moriarty Christine Galeucia & JoAnn Payson



- Continue to increase Membership
- Continue to increase Endowment
- Continue to increase Awareness
- Recruit a volunteer web master

- Goal Met
- Goal Met
- Goal Met

- Goal Met

- Goal Not Met
- Form committees (membership, geocahcing, stewardship, & website development and maintenance) Goal Met
- Formalize the Stewardship Program
- Deploy and maintain 3 to 4 additional Geocaches sites on HALT properties
 Goal Met
- Finalize paperwork and trails development on the Highlands II and Peloquin Estates properties - Goal Met
- Update Strategic Plan and Update Work Plan In Process



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- Continue to increase Endowment
- Continue to increase Awareness
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Expectations 2014-2015

•	Finish Whisper Way CR; (at State for Final Approv	/al) and
	 Receive the Endowment 	\$ 2,000
•	Finish Cameron CR; and	
	Receive the Endowment	\$13,000
•	Obtain CR on Sylvan Way Open Space 16 Acres	
	– & Endowment	\$ 2,500
•	Receive the Deed to the Peloquin Open Space	16.2 Ac.
	 Receive the Endowment 	\$ 2,000
•	Continue Negotiation on Hopkinton Highlands III	25+ Ac.
•	Baseline Doumentation on:	
	 Deneen- Austin Powder Open Space 	In- Process
	 Whisper Way Open Space (+Parking area & Trail) 	In-Process
	 Phipps Woods – complete the document 	In-Process
	 Cameron Woods – complete the document 	In-Process



Financial Condition of the Trust

- Financial Position
 - XXXX5633 Business Blue Checking
 - XXXX0523

Business Money Fund

\$ 1,304.37 \$60,043.62*

• *These are Endowment Funds

Total \$61,347.99

Parcel	Location	Subdivision/Donor	Acreage	Total Acreage	Owne r-ship	Cor	nservation Restriction Grantee	Trails	Date Received	Book	Page	Section
Α	Fawn Ridge Road Circle	Deer Run/Brickhill	0.30	0.30	Fee				07/30/2004	43416	139-140	NE
С	Fawn Ridge Road	Deer Run/Brickhill	12.04	12.34	Fee			Andersen's	01/23/2002	34639	205-210	NE
С	Greenwood Road	Hopkinton Highlands I	23.47	35.81	Fee	CR/Hop	Lodge to Hopkinton ConComm	Sands	06/07/2004	34524	286-287	NE
BB	Greenwood Road	Hopkinton Highlands I	7.40	43.21	Fee	CR/Hop	Lodge to Hopkinton ConComm		06/07/2004	34524	286-287	NE
D	Greenwood Road	Hopkinton Highlands I	0.36	43.57	Fee	CR/Hop	Lodge to Hopkinton ConComm	Zettek Ovlk	06/07/2004	34524	286-287	NE
AA	Greenwood Road	Hopkinton Highlands I	9.55	53.12	Fee	CR/Hop	Lodge to Hopkinton ConComm		06/11/1998	28695	487	NE
Α	Overlook Road	Hopkinton Highlands II	31.30	84.42	Fee	CR/Hop	Main CR on entire 70.55 Acres	Future	12/29/2008	52020	396-409	NE
В	Overlook Road	Hopkinton Highlands II	6.93	91.35	Fee	CR/Hop	Eagle Farms to FoW	Future	12/29/2008	52020	410-417	NE
С	Overlook Road	Hopkinton Highlands II	25.17	116.52	Fee	CR/Hop	Water Supply Protection CR	Future	Deed to HALT			NE
н	Overlook Road	Hopkinton Highlands II	1.02	117.54	Fee	CR/Hop	Eagle farm s to Board of Health	Future	12/29/2008	52020	419-422	NE
OS-ANR	Overlook Road	Hopkinton Highlands II	6.13	123.67	Fee	CR/Hop	Deed to HALT	Future				NE
0	Cedar Street/Route 85	Hopkinton Highlands III	31.37	155.04	Fee			Future				NE
1	Cross Street	Clott	0.14	155.18	Fee			DeGozzaldi	06/16/2004	43060	240	NE
н	Frankland Rd/Cross St	DeGozzaldi	11.73	166.91	Fee	CR/Hop	Hopkinton ConComm	DeGozzaldi	11/30/2001	34221	553-555	NE
н	Frankland Rd/Cross St	DeGozzaldi	1.84	168.75	Fee	CR/Hop	Hopkinton ConComm	DeGozzaldi	11/30/2001	34221	557-558	NE
		Wiley Woods	15.88	182.79	Fee	CR/SVT	Sudbury Valley Trustees	Wiley	12/30/1997	28035	208-209	NE
0		Erna	5.90	188.69	Fee				07/24/2002	35961	446	SW
		Hill Street Realty/Bemis	35.04	223.73	Fee			Future	09/12/2005	1261 LC	37	SW
		Whitehall Conservation Ar	11.11	234.84		CR	Town to HALT and FOW	Town	06/17/2009	53008	530-551	SW
		Whitehall Conservation Ar	13.06	247.90		CR	Town to HALT and FOW	Town	06/17/2009	53008	530-551	SW
1	Pine Acres/Clinton Stree	Kotob	9.39	257.29	Fee	CR	Unknown		07/13/2004	43273	569-570	SE
		Olde North Mill/Roux	31.75	289.04	Fee			Mighton I	07/24/2001	1241 LC	96	SE
-		Olde North Mill/Terry	20.24	309.28	Fee			Mighton II	12/29/2005	1313 LC	98	SE
	Scarlata Road	Deneen/Scarlata	5.53	314.81	Fee	CR	Hopkinton ConComm	Ť				SE
-	North Street	Hopkinton Meadows	29.47	344.28		CR	Pulte to HALT	Town	06/07/2004	34177	460-475	NW
-		Hopkinton Meadows	3.07	347.35		CR	Pulte to HALT	Town	06/07/2004	34177	460-475	NW
	Rocky Woods Road	The Commons	48.34	395.69	Fee	CR	HALT to Home Owner Association	Future?				NW
-		The Commons	5.63	401.32	Fee	CR	HALT to Home Owner Association	Future?				NW
		Zettek	1.44	402.76	Fee				12/28/2000	32189	048-049	NE
		Zettek	1.70	404.46	Fee				07/17/2002	33311	003-004	NE
-		Zettek	5.20	409.66	Fee				07/17/2002	33311	003-004	NE
-		Terry Property	68.36	478.02		CR	Town to HALT	Center	01/06/2004	41738	432	SE
-	ů.	Southboro Rod & Gun	22.88	500.90		CR	Southboro Gun Club to HALT	00	01/00/1004			NW
-		Canterbury	6.38	507.28	Fee	CR	LMPA (Malcolm Page)	Future				NW
1		Canterbury	1.04	508.32	Fee	CR	LMPA (Malcolm Page)	Future				NW
		Soverign Development	6.25	514.57		CR	Soverign to HALT	- and - C	12/30/1997	28038	416-430	SW
		Soverign Development	3.98	518.55		CR	Soverign to HALT		12/30/1997	28038	416-430	SW
-		EMC2	8.00	522.57		CR	EMCC to HALT		02/22/2002	34878	150-164	SW
		Town of Hopkinton	145.00	667.57		CR	Town to HALT & SVT	Future?	02,22,2002	04070	100 104	NW
-		Peloguin Estates (Gassett	145.00	683.94	Fee	CR	Unknown	Future				SER25 26
-		Braim Farm LLC (Terry)	29.31	713.24	Fee	CR	Unknown	Future	05/11/2010	54664	230-231	SEN25 20
		Braim Farm LLC (Terry)	10.51	713.24	Fee	CR	Unknown	Future	03/11/2010	34004	200-201	SE
	Phipps Woods	Hopkinton	12.27	736.02	CR	CR	Onknown	Tuture				JL
		Hopkinton	7.79	743.81	CR	CR						
		Hopkinton	132.00	875.81	CR	CR						
		Austin Powder	132.00	875.81 882.41	Fee	Un						
	West Main Street	Ausuit POwder	0.0	882.41	ree							

In - Progress

On-Hold

Hopkinton Area Land Trust

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Back-up











