



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Beth Fenstermacher, Acting Assistant City Planner

DATE: October 21, 2016

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting and appropriating the sum of \$320,000 from the NH Department of Environmental Services, including \$300,000 in grant funds from the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Grant and \$20,000 from the Local Source Water Protection Program Grant to be used towards the purchase of two parcels totaling 116-acres within the Penacook Lake Watershed, located off of Lakeview Drive and West Parish Road.

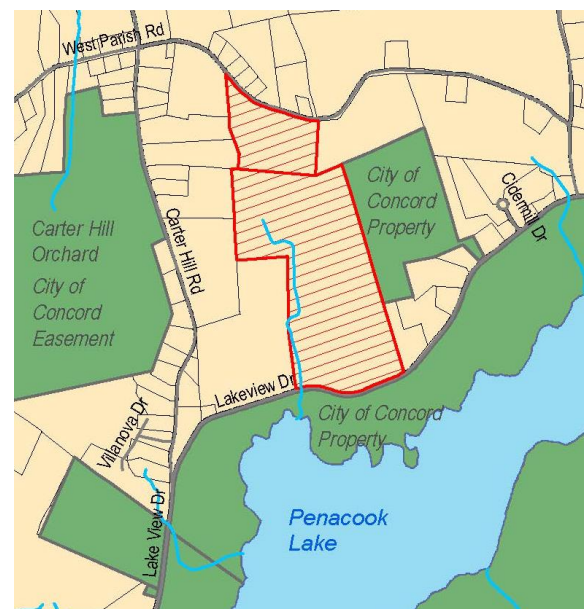
Recommendation

Accept and appropriate the sum of \$320,000 from the NH Department of Environmental Services, including \$300,000 in grant funds from the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Grant and \$20,000 from the Local Source Water Protection Program Grant to be used towards the purchase of two parcels totaling 116-acres within the Penacook Lake Watershed, located off of Lakeview Drive and West Parish Road.

Background

In 2013, the City of Concord approached the Haller Family regarding the possibility of the City purchasing two lots (lots 103-1-33 and 103-1-22) containing 116 acres located off of Lakeview Road and West Parish Road. The project links other protected land in the area, adding to a block of conservation land totaling nearly 900 acres. The land located directly across Lakeview Drive is part of a 685-acre area owned and maintained by the City to protect the water supply.

The City Council granted the City Manager the authority to apply for the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Grant on August 10, 2015; the City was notified that were awarded the ARM grant on November 19, 2015. The City Council granted the City Manager the authority to apply for a Local Source Water Protection (SWP) Grant on



December 14, 2015; the City was notified that we were awarded the SWP grant on February 10, 2016. The City Council granted the City Manager the authority to enter into the two grant agreements with the NH DES on March 14, 2016.

Discussion

The Conservation Commission discussed the property acquisition at their meeting on March 11, 2015, and supported the submission of the grant applications to leverage the cost of the property. The appraised value of the property as of October 21, 2013 was \$600,000. The Commission will utilize \$20,000 from the SWP fund to cover transaction costs, \$300,000 from the ARM fund will go towards the purchase price, and the Commission anticipates providing the remainder of the purchase price from the City's Conservation Trust Fund, contingent on a public hearing and vote of the Conservation Commission.

A Certificate of Vote of Authorization from City Council and a signed grant agreement were required documentation to begin the Governor & Council grant approval. Therefore, to help ensure that the process began expeditiously, a resolution was previously accepted allowing the City Manager to enter into agreements with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) prior to appropriating the funds. The grant agreements were approved by the Governor & Council in August 2016.

BAF