



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner, on behalf of the Conservation Commission

DATE: September 23, 2019

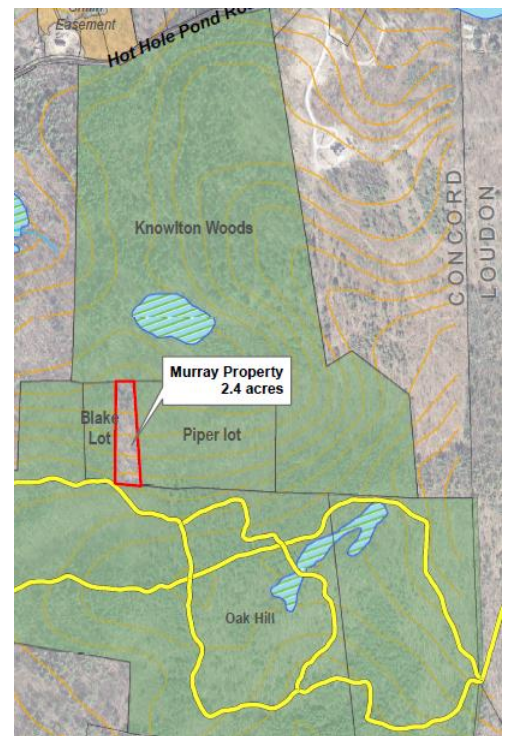
SUBJECT: Resolution approving the acquisition of open space off Hot Hole Pond Road for conservation purposes, and authorizing the expenditure of up to \$3,600 from the Conservation Fund for this purpose, as recommended by the Conservation Commission.

Recommendation

Approved a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to acquire land for conservation purposes located off of Hot Hole Pond Road, and appropriate \$3,600 from the Conservation Fund for the acquisition of said parcel.

Background

In April 2019, the City of Concord Conservation Commission approached the Murray Family regarding the possibility of the City purchasing a parcel of land legally described as Tax Map 10Z Lot 3, consisting of approximately 2.4 acres, located off of Hot Hole Pond Road. The subject property is located within the Conservation Focus Area identified as "Oak Hill North" in the 2017 Conservation Open Space Plan. The area was identified as a priority for acquisition because it is a prominent scenic resource; has high resilience value due to habitat connectivity and ecological integrity; contains productive forest land; and is identified as Highest Ranked Habitat in NH in the State of NH Fish & Game Wildlife Action Plan. The project will add to a block of conservation land totaling nearly 370 acres, and will provide additional access to the Oak Hill trails network.



Discussion

The property is assessed by the City Assessor at \$2,400. After negotiations between the Commission and the Murray family, the family agreed to sell the property at a cost of \$3,600, which is \$1,200 over the assessed value to account for the value of the timber to remain. The Commission anticipates providing the purchase price from the City's Conservation Trust Fund, contingent on a City Council approval.

The Conservation Commission voted unanimously, at a public hearing on September 11, 2019, in favor of the acquisition of the 2.4 acre parcel, allocating no more than the sum of \$3,600 from the Conservation Fund. Further, the Commission declared that its purposes—in taking these actions to acquire this property and allocate the funding for the same—are to maintain, improve, protect, and limit the future use of, and otherwise conserve and properly utilize this property as open space together with other land and water resources within the City.

BAF