



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Concord Conservation Commission

**DATE:** November 30, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Local Source Water Protection Program grant for funds that will assist in the purchase of a 116-acre parcel off of Lakeview Drive and West Parish Road.

### **Recommendation**

Adopt the Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Local Source Water Protection Program Grant to cover transaction costs for the purchase of land within the Penacook Lake drainage area.

### **Background**

In 2013, the City of Concord approached the Haller Family regarding the possibility of the City purchasing two lots (lots 38Z-37 and 51Z-12) containing 116 acres total, located off of Lakeview Drive and West Parish Road. The project would link 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 Commission is also in talks with the Haller family about acquiring an easement on an additional 120 acres of agricultural land nearby.

Acquisition of the Haller land will provide permanent protection for the property. The Local Source water protection grant aims to provide assistance for the implementation and development of programs to protect existing sources of public drinking water. The property qualifies for the grant program because of its proximity to the water supply. A map of the property is attached for your review.

### **Discussion**

The Conservation Commission discussed the property acquisition at their meeting on March 11, 2015, and supported the submission of grant applications to leverage the cost of the property. The appraised value of the property, as of October 21, 2013, is \$600,000. The Conservation Commission was notified on November 16, 2015, that the Haller Farm Preservation Project was approved for \$300,000 in funding from the NHDES Aquatic Resources Mitigation fund. The Conservation Commission anticipates providing the remainder of the purchase price from the City's Conservation Trust Fund, contingent on a public hearing, vote of the

Conservation Commission, and approval by City Council. The Commission anticipates covering legal fees and transaction costs, up to \$20,000, through the Local Source Water Protection Grant.

If selected, the Conservation Commission intends to manage the property for passive recreation (hiking, skiing, snowshoeing trails) and resource protection, as it does other open space property under its jurisdiction.