



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™  
Conservation Commission*

May 5, 2022

The Honorable Jim Bouley  
Concord City Council  
41 Green Street  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Gully Hill Conservation Land

Dear Mayor Bouley and City Councilors:

On April 13, 2022, the Conservation Commission met during its regularly scheduled monthly meeting and discussed the City Council's review of the Ad hoc Gully Hill Committee's Report to the Mayor and City Council.

The Commission's charge from City Council of protecting, promoting and developing the City's natural resources has long included the protection of agricultural lands for agricultural use. The purchase of the Gully Hill lands by the City between 2004 and 2012 were all subject to the condition that the lands would be leased back to the families that previously owned and farmed these lands. Although the local farmers leasing these lands may have changed over time, the Commission's commitment to the preservation of these valuable agricultural lands for continued commercial agricultural use has been steadfast.

The Commission fully supports the recommendation of the Ad hoc committee that Gully Hill parcel remain in commercial agricultural use through the issuance of a long-term lease on the entire property. A lease with an initial term of 10 years and four 5-year renewal options, for a total potential term of 30 years, is consistent with other agricultural leases on City-owned conservation lands. In terms of stewardship of this important property, a long-term lease is far preferable to a short-term lease because it allows the farmer leasing the lands to invest in the land and soils, rotate crops, and take other actions that benefit the land for its intended use. The Commission also recommends that the Gully Hill land be leased out to a single lessee, although we are not opposed to a lease term that would allow that farmer to sublet a portion of the land for other agricultural uses, with the consent of the City.

Sincerely,

Kristine S. Tardiff  
Chair