



Conservation Commission

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December 3, 2013

Mr. John Billera
Director of Business Impact Services
Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance
McCormack State Office Building
One Ashburton Place, 15th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Billera:

The Middleton Conservation Commission is writing this letter to you regarding Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) held property within the Town of Middleton. The 2013 Middleton Town Meeting, on petition of the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission, voted unanimously in favor to request the Town's State Senator and State Representatives to file a bill to transfer approximately 111 acres of various wetland and open space land parcels along the Ipswich River, now under the care and custody of DCAMM, to be transferred to the Town of Middleton Conservation Commission, Essex County Greenbelt Association or any other similar organization meeting the objective of preserving said parcels for the long term protection and enjoyment for the residents of the Town, and take any related action thereto. All but one of the parcels was acquired specifically for conservation purposes over several decades prior to the dissolution of the County in the 1990s.

The Town and our legislative delegation met with DCAMM officials at the State House on October 9, 2013 regarding these properties. At the meeting, DCAMM stated legislative action was unnecessary and there was precedent for transferring conservation properties to municipalities assuming the properties were maintained for conservation purposes. The Town correspondingly committed to providing DCAMM with specific information regarding each of the properties. Attached is information put together by the Town regarding each of the sixteen parcels. Please consider this letter and attachments as a formal request to transfer the specified DCAMM properties to the Middleton Conservation Commission. Please reply to Mr. Tom Skinner, who is serving as the liaison from the Conservation Commission, and Assistant Town Administrator, Ryan Ferrara with any questions or requests for additional information. We will follow up with you regarding next steps. On behalf of the Town, we appreciate DCAMM's willingness to work cooperatively on this important project.

Sincerely,

Tom Skinner, Middleton Conservation Commission Chairperson

cc: Ira S. Singer, Town Administrator