

Windham Conservation Commission
Town of Windham
Windham, VT 05359

February 17, 2019

Dear Windham Resident

The Windham Conservation Commission is reaching out to inform Windham residents about two important recent developments in Town. The first is the recent purchase of the McGraw parcel by The Nature Conservancy and the other is the Community Values Mapping Project that the Conservation Commission will be undertaking this spring to work with residents to identify what is special about our town. We encourage everyone to participate in both of these activities.

Glebe Mountain: The Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has purchased 3500 acres on Glebe Mountain. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a non-profit organization that conserves natural lands, largely through purchase, throughout the world. The Vermont Chapter has identified Glebe Mountain and the surrounding land as an outstanding resource area because it is a very large block of woodland uninterrupted by roads or other development, making it extremely valuable as wildlife habitat. This purchase is a significant portion of the total Glebe Mountain area TNC considers priority for protection.

Jon Binhammer, Director of Land Protection for TNC Vermont, spoke to residents at the Windham Meetinghouse in November. He explained that the property taxes will continue to be paid by TNC and public access will be allowed with some limitations, and that TNC has a policy of allowing continued use of VAST Trails on their land. The details of allowed uses, etc., are still to be worked out as TNC biologists study the land and get more information about the property. This protection would be permanent.

The Windham Conservation Commission considers this purchase to be a wonderful opportunity for the Town. The permanent protection of such a prominent and undisturbed property allows the Town to enjoy forever all the ecological values and beauty of this magnificent piece of land.

Please consider donating to TNC to help them make this purchase a reality. Even very small donations are helpful because they show community support for the project. You can send donations to:

The Nature Conservancy
575 Stone Cutters Way
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
ph. 802-229-4425
Email: vermont@tnc.org

Please identify that the donation is for the Glebe Mountain Project.

Community Values Mapping: The Conservation Commission will be working with Monica Pryzperhart, of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, to conduct a series of workshops for residents and Town officials to identify places and qualities of the Town that residents value most. This is a project that has been done in numerous Towns throughout the State and gives the Conservation Commission a chance to meet with residents and find out what you value about our Town.

There are two separate work sessions. The first is a mapping exercise that asks residents to share what they value about living in Windham. The second will be a more formal session facilitated by Monica. Town residents will be

encouraged to identify the values—environmental, land use (and land preservation), recreational, social, educational, etc.—that are most important to them. The information will be compiled into a summary map by the Fish and Wildlife Department.

This information could help guide future Town planning and conservation efforts. It will also be a fun time to talk about what we like about the town we live in.

Thank you!

Alison Trowbridge, Chair
Hal Wilkins, Vice Chair
Dawn Bower
Ginny Crittenden
Barbara Davis
Diane Newton