

Open Space Task Force

Land Acquisition Framework



9/12/24

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Land Acquisition Values

Based on five values that reflect social, cultural, and conservation value of land

- **Contiguity with open space** - Wildlife corridors, invasive species prevention, flood mitigation
- **Ecological integrity**- NHESP priority habitat, threatened species, natural resources
- **Recreational, historical, cultural value**- Resources that are intrinsically valuable to us
- **Climate resiliency** - Storm water attenuation, carbon sequestration
- **Public good**- Land that is accessible to many that will provide a public good

OSTF Role

The Administration is looking to the OSTF for guidance in the following areas relating to land acquisition:

- **Identifying the lands value to the Town based on conservation criteria**
- **Visioning of the site now and in the future (opportunity as well as protection)**
- **High, moderate, or low level or urgency for acquisition**
- **Recommending next steps (surveys, appraisals, follow up questions to land owners)**

OSTF is NOT developing specific negotiation strategies around price in open session

OSTF Funding Sources

The Open Space Task Force operates under the following financial guidelines:

- **2021 ATM approved a borrowing authorization of \$1.2 for identified open space acquisitions to be placed under the care and control of the Conservation Commission**
- **Funds can be used to fund any of the parcels approved on the “wish list” created by OSTF in 2021**
- **In addition, funds can be used for costs related to acquisition such as appraisals, surveys, or other related costs**
- **Funding authorization is carried year to year in town’s long-range financial plan**
- **No town meeting approval required, but any acquisition would have to be approved by the Conservation Commission and Select Board**