



Citizens for  
Lexington  
Conservation

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February, 2003  
Kate Fricker, editor

Eileen Entin, President

## CANDIDATES' FORUM ISSUE

Citizens for Lexington Conservation, Inc. devotes this annual issue of its newsletter to candidates' statements in order to help you, the voter, cast your ballot effectively.



All candidates for office were sent a letter soliciting their response to the following question:

*"The Conservation Commission expects to submit an article in the coming Warrant asking for the transfer of several pieces of Town-owned property to Conservation's jurisdiction. Maps (not all to the same scale) showing the locations of the sites under consideration outlined in black are on the back of this letter. What is your position on these land transfers?"*

The maps sent to the candidates are printed on the last page of this issue.

**CLC does not endorse any candidate.** Rather, we urge you to read the candidates' statements, make your own decisions, and **VOTE** for your candidates on **Monday, March 3.**

**CLC publications**, guides to the conservation land of Lexington and other interesting materials, are available on the CLC website:  
<http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>

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**CANDIDATES FOR TOWN-WIDE OFFICE**

**Margery M. Battin**  
**Candidate for Moderator**  
**862-3639**

Proposals for the acquisition or transfer of land for conservation purposes deserve careful attention by Town Meeting.

As Moderator, however, I never state my position on issues that come before Town Meeting. If the Moderator is to preside fairly and impartially over Town Meeting, her opinion on issues, persons or groups should not be known.

All questions facing Town Meeting deserve balanced, thoughtful consideration. Therefore, the Moderator should make certain that the subject under debate is clear, Town Meeting practices and procedures are understood, and all points of view are fully explored. As Moderator I feel it is my role to protect and improve the process by which decisions are made which can affect the quality of life in Lexington.

As Moderator I will continue to do everything possible to see that Town Meeting members receive the information needed to make informed choices and that citizen participants thoroughly understand Town Meeting procedures. Citizen article sponsors have been sent written instructions to aid them in preparing for Town Meeting. These citizens will be included in the Moderator's meeting with article sponsors during which we establish Town Meeting format, timing, and chronology and note areas of potential

disagreement. A workshop will again be held for new Town Meeting members to answer questions, explain legal issues, parliamentary procedures and land use as well as financial terms and concepts. I will be readily available for consultation and explanation of meeting procedures to all citizens and officials wishing to be heard at Town Meeting. I will write a newspaper article to explain the protocol for citizen participation.

**Peter Kelley**  
**Candidate for Selectman and for Town Meeting,**  
**Precinct 4**  
**781-861-1546**

I support all three land transfers as proposed by Citizens for Lexington Conservation. Open land is at a premium in Lexington and should be preserved whenever possible.

**Scott Burson**  
**Candidate for School Committee**  
**(781) 863-8367**  
**scottburson02421@aol.com**

As a School Committee member, I have had to balance the desirability of protecting open space by transferring property to the Conservation Commission against institutional needs of the Town, not only for the present, but the future. I do not anticipate any present or future school use for any of the three parcels identified for potential transfer to the Conservation Commission. At one point, the Highland Ave. site was considered as a potential school site. Having looked at the site, I do not believe it is appropriate for any Town use other than Conservation.



The North Street parcel would be large enough to accommodate a senior center for the Town, although the Senior Center Siting Committee eliminated it in favor of other sites. Because the other sites may not be available, the Town may need to revisit the question of whether this parcel would better serve the Town as conservation land or as a home for a Senior Center. There is a similar issue with respect to the Bedford Street parcel, but I do not believe its transfer would conflict with any anticipated use for the present DPW site.

The parcels listed for transfer in the 2003 Warrant under Article 23: Conservation are currently owned by the Town, and are listed in the 1996 Land Acquisition Planning Report. It was stated "that the Commission should, after consulting with relevant Boards and Committees request the transfer to Conservation jurisdiction" of the following parcels: North St. Pits, Highland Ave "School" site and the 50 feet parcel along the Bikeway abutting Public Works land at 201 Bedford St. As Chairman of the Capital Expenditures Committee it will be our charge to advise Town Meeting on these transfers because they are in effect assets that can have more than one use. Land is VERY scarce and the Town has unmet needs. The large parcel on North St. containing the Pits and 21.5 acres is already considered Park-Recreation land, mostly protected by the building restrictions of Conservation. It contains a section of Vine Brook and the bike path, well suited to passive recreation and possible development of paths and was recently voted by the Commission to remain as is. The abutting corner on North and Lowell is high, dry, accessible 2.8 acres and is still a potential site for a COA center, so its change in status may be premature since the site of a new facility has yet to be determined. The Highland Ave. site abuts Conservation land, has poor access, almost no frontage, and drains into wetlands. Its 14.7 acres was a potential School site. The School Committee has not voted to release it and CEC is studying the parcel prior to a recommendation. The Bedford St parcel seems like a logical transfer as its 3.6 acres abuts the bike path and other conservation land.

**Helen Cohen**  
**Candidate for School Committee**  
**and for Town Meeting, Precinct 9**  
**863-1279**  
**helencohen@rcn.com**

I am grateful to live in Lexington, a town which has paid attention to preserving open land and

continues to do so. Conservation lands maintain and improve ecological conditions, and provide places for all of us to enjoy nature.

I am not in a position yet to make a judgment on the three parcels of land specifically considered for the current town article, but I know what I will need to do to be able to vote wisely on the article. I will need to visit the sites. I will need to find out why these particular pieces of land have been chosen by the Conservation Commission, and whether there are specific benefits in addition to ensuring open space. I will need to know whether there are specific objections to transferring these pieces to Conservation's jurisdiction, and what they are. And then I will have to weigh the arguments.

I have participated in the Lexington 20/20 Vision Steering and Implementation Committees for three years, and I know that preserving open space is one of our community values, as well as one of my own. This value, however, can occasionally be in conflict with other important values, such as providing sufficient affordable housing. So, for instance, while the piece by the bike path looks like an obvious transfer to make, I need to know more about the other two pieces before drawing even a tentative conclusion.

**Jeff Crampton**  
**Candidate for Planning Board**  
**and for Town Meeting, Precinct 5**  
**781-676-0619**  
**jccrampton@aol.com**

I support the transfer of these parcels of Town land to the Conservation Commission.

Preserving open space through the Conservation Commission enhances our environment, our lifestyles, and the value of our homes. My friends in the development community have informed me that these parcels are not prime candidates for development. Wherever town-owned land is not suitable for development, my bias is towards transferring that land to the Conservation Commission.

That said, we do need to favor growth in Lexington. The Town always wishes to spend more money, often on very good things. But the old formula of revenues = rate x base still applies. We need to cut expenses, raise taxes, or increase the base. I will always oppose tax increases, and I know that it is politically difficult to cut spending. As I see it, that leaves us with growth as our best alternative.

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING

**Jean Cole**  
Precinct 1  
781-861-8326

I enthusiastically support transferring the town-owned parcels you describe to Conservation's jurisdiction.

**Janet Moran**  
Precinct 1  
781-862-0639

I feel that the Conservation Commission does a very good job regulating and protecting the wetlands in Lexington and it is important to protect the open space areas of the town. This is an important issue; however, right now I do not feel that I have enough information to give a final opinion. At this point, I would like to hear from the residents or Town Meeting members in these precincts to see if they have any objections or are upset by this transfer of land. I feel that I do not have enough information at this time to make a final comment.

**Judith L. Zabin**  
Precinct 1  
781-861-0956  
azabin@rcn.com

I have always supported policies and procedures that maintain and preserve open land in Lexington. If the Selectmen or School Committee propose an alternate plan for any of these parcels, I would certainly give thoughtful consideration to another use. However, unless there was a clearly documented reason given to keep it as town-owned property, I would definitely support its being transferred to the Conservation Commission.

**Darwin Adams**  
Precinct 3  
781-863-2301  
darwin@adams-eisenberg.com

In general, I feel that Lexington is reaching its limits for development and that we should be (as stated in the Lexington Vision 20/20 document) developing to make things better, not bigger.

The three parcels mentioned in your letter I believe are appropriate for transfer to conservation. The Sand Pits site provides a much needed buffer between the commercial and residential areas at this border of our town. The Bedford Street bike path site lies at the back of the DPW and protects the North Lexington brook watershed area. Preserving this area would also provide a buffer

between the bike path and the surrounding lands. The Highland Avenue site borders a large wetland and would maintain this natural environment adjacent to Highland.

Better sites should be found for developments such as a Senior Center, the new DPW and affordable housing, and I would support transfer of these town-owned land to conservation.

**Jacqueline Davison**  
Precinct 3  
862-3282

I enthusiastically support the transfer of the three parcels from Town supervision to Conservation. This action will ensure appropriate use of the land and protect them from temptations for more intensive use.

The 14.7 acre Highland Ave. site, half of which is wet and adjacent to Conservation Land, will be adjacent to any development around Bob Cataldo's home. The 21.5 acre Sand Pits site contains three ponds. The .36 acre Bike Path site abuts Conservation Land on Revere St. and protects the North Lexington Brook that wanders on both sides of the bike path.

All three sites would be a nice way to help the Conservation Commission celebrate its 40 years serving Lexington by adding to their inventory. A better way to celebrate would be by a purchase of a new parcel from their "wish list."

**Richard L. Neumeier**  
Precinct 3  
781-861-7925  
rneumeier@mhnattys.com

In the past I have been very supportive of conservation articles. If I am re-elected, I do not expect my perspective to change. As to the specifics set forth in the January, 2003 letter by Kate Fricker, I have not had sufficient time in which to study the pieces of property involved and the pros and cons (if any) with respect to transferring these parcels to conservation. If the Selectmen agree that the parcels should be transferred, it is highly likely that I will vote in favor.

**Robert I. Rotberg**  
Precinct 3  
781-862-4089  
robert\_rotberg@harvard.edu

Proposals to transfer town-owned parcels to the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction always

receive my support. During my thirty years in Town Meeting, the CC has always behaved responsibly, more so than other boards. It has always acted in the best interests of the town and its citizens. The first two of the parcels (Sand Pits and Bike Path) ought to prove non-controversial. The third (off Highland Avenue) will doubtless occasion heated debate, but if the Selectmen favor it the TM vote ought to be favorable. My vote will be to support the CC.

**Gloria Bloom**  
Precinct 4  
781-862-4198  
gjbloom@rcn.com

I generally approve of transferring town land to the stewardship of the Conservation Commission. However, I would like to hear the views of the current holders of the three parcels before making a final decision. I don't think that the Highland Avenue-Marrett Road site is suitable for any other use (school, senior center) due to the topography - wetland and steep hilly area. The same applies to most of the Sand Pits site, although the area at the intersection of Lowell and North Street had been considered as a possible location for the Senior Center. The areas along the bike path on Adams Street and the sandy ponds are very pleasant to walk in and would be a fine addition to our conservation lands. It would be nice if some parking for a few cars were provided there. I don't know anything about the small parcel on the bike path. I would like to know if there was any other use that the town had planned for it before agreeing to transfer it to conservation.

**Stacey Cannon**  
Precinct 4  
timstacey@rcn.com  
781-862-2450

I have reviewed the parcels of property under consideration for transfer and feel that each parcel will add to the beauty and/or usefulness of these areas in our town, especially if the Highland Avenue and Sand Pits site are developed into more useable tracts. Given the economic times, I am sure that it will be important to understand how the transfer will affect the Town's finances, so that the benefit can be adequately described and insured for each parcel. I do not believe we need to lose sight of such a significant effort in tough times, but find funding alternatives to encourage the transfer.

As a general consideration, it is my opinion that towns need to be aggressive in protecting as much

green space as possible to ensure that future generations have as much of the same ecological environment as their ancestors did. While I realize that practical guidelines need to be set to allow for expansion, it is my belief that any planning and zoning needs to have habitable tracts closely aligned with conserved space to truly form an ecologically balanced neighborhood. Trees, meadows and wetlands are all part of mix necessary to keep the human element in balance with the rest of "natural" environment.

As an avid hiker, and dog owner, I feel that one of the many benefits of living in our town, and particularly near the Lincoln conservation area, is the amount of space we have to meander. Whether using places like the Bike Path, Willard Woods, or my own Lincoln area, I am constantly grateful for the foresight of the conservation efforts of our citizens in making these places a priority and a reality. It will be my pleasure, as well as my duty if elected, to ensure that such areas as described will come to be placed in Lexington's considerable and growing inventory of pleasurable places to be and see and live near.

**Richard K. Foley**  
Precinct 4  
richard.foley@sarnafilus.com

As a resident of Percy Road I am very familiar with the Highland Avenue/ Marrett Road site. As such I am very much in favor of your article to transfer this site to the town as conservation land. I am also in favor of the same transfer for the "Sands Point Site".

Unfortunately, due to weather, I have been unable to visit the Bedford Street/ Bike Path Site, and thus do not wish to comment until I have seen the site. I hope to be able to do this before the Town Meeting.

**David Harris**  
Precinct 4  
781-674-0010  
david.harris@genzyme.com

Over my 8 years as a Town Meeting Member I have voted in favor of every warrant article requesting that land be transferred into the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. I firmly believe that our open spaces make Lexington a special place.

In November I contacted the Conservation Commission and requested their support in placing the Highland Avenue - Marrett Road site into Conservation. The Conservation Commission

agreed to hear our group at their meeting in early December at which time we presented our rationale for placing this land into Conservation. I strongly support this land transfer. This land is a beautiful 14-acre parcel abutting the Worthen Corridor parcel that was placed into Conservation previously. That land is not very accessible. The addition of this 14-acre parcel would improve access for passive recreation and nature trail type activities for the whole area. A significant portion of this area is wet. This land transfer would provide improved wetland protection for both parcels.

As a member of the Senior Center Site Evaluation Committee I walked the Sand Pits site. I found this to be a beautiful natural area. I voted against building on this site and believe it should be preserved. I plan to vote for this land transfer.

I know much less about the Bedford Street Bike Path site. I expect that I would vote to transfer the land to Conservation unless there were important reasons not to do so that I am not aware of at this time.

**Peter Kelley**  
Precinct 4  
See Candidates for Selectman

**Ellen McDonald**  
Precinct 4  
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emcdonald@rcn.com

Absent of public discussion and available information on these proposed sites, it is difficult to make a reasoned judgment about these land transfers. What I can do, comfortably, is to state my commitment to preserving open space in our community. Open space preservation supports important plant and animal habitats, improves the natural beauty of our town and the quality of life for our citizens. In a town such as Lexington, transferring land to the Conservation's jurisdiction serves to redirect new growth to existing areas of development thus easing the constant pressure on our natural assets. Choosing to preserve and protect our open space is a way for us honor that which we value--clean natural resources, beautiful places, and ecological systems which sustain all life.

**Roderick McNeil**  
Precinct 4  
(781) 258-6062  
rcm@q4th.com

I strongly favor the transfer of open space to Conservation Commission ownership, especially

when such property is contiguous with existing conservation, park or recreation space, or when such property is a large green space. Open space is a limited resource which should be preserved as part of our legacy for our children and grandchildren. Any open space that is not held as conservation, park or water supply lands, or held in a private lands trust, is not permanently protected and must be considered at risk for development.

There are circumstances, however, when use or sale of a property may be more beneficial to the town and its open space program than the setting aside of such property; one such example would be the exchange of a particularly valuable building parcel for a larger or contiguous piece of green space elsewhere. Additionally, consideration should be given to using such transfers to conservation land as matching equity for obtaining certain private or state funds for acquisition of additional open spaces for preservation.

Consequently, I would support the recommendation of the Conservation Commission to transfer the property at the intersection of North Street and Lowell Street, the property along the bike path at Bedford Street, and the property at Highland Avenue near Marrett Road, provided that other town personnel and committees did not indicate an overriding need for any of the parcels, and provided that the setting aside of such parcels was the best way to maximize the quantity and quality of land being protected.

**Paul Miniutti**  
Precinct 4  
781-862-6260 (Home)  
781-551-9123 Ext. 26 (Work)

Thank you for asking my opinion. Unfortunately, from the information I received, I can't come to any reasonable conclusion about the land transfers. It "sounds" like a good idea -- conservation of land always seems like a proper thing to do -- but I really am not well enough informed about these properties. Who's affected? What are the pro's and con's? Why this land now?

I do assure you if I become Town Meeting member, I will pursue all warrants to the best of my ability. I will attend Town Meeting fully informed about all the warrants and I will ask and listen to my constituents, so that I can reflect their positions at Town Meeting.

Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss this further.

**Joan Zahka**  
Precinct 4  
(781) 862-9037  
joanzahka@rcn.com

I would very much like to serve Town Meeting as a member from Precinct 4 if elected. I have strong feelings of support for maintaining open space in Lexington. I think it is one of the most important ways Lexington can stay attractive and vital as a desirable community and place to live. With that said, I am also open to the ideas of others and a good listener. It is most difficult to communicate a position on these three land parcels without hearing from the public at large. I can only say that in advance of any dialog on this article, my initial impression is they would fit well under the Conservation Commissions' jurisdiction.

**Jeff Crampton**  
Precinct 5  
See Candidates for Planning Board

**Elaine Dratch**  
Precinct 5  
781-861-1443  
edratch@aol.com

I have been a consistent supporter of the acquisition of Conservation land by the town. The transfer of town and school property and purchase of private property adds to the open space in neighborhoods, allows for passive recreation, helps our environment, and offers respite from overdevelopment.

I would support all three transfers, particularly the small pieces along the Bedford St. bikepath and adjacent to the North St. land. I want to be assured that the Highland St. school property is not feasible for other uses such as active recreation or other town or school uses.

**Jim Shaw**  
Precinct 5  
781-861-0136  
jamesshaw@rcn.com

I believe that as a community we should make every reasonable effort to preserve open space in Lexington and allow that open space to be used by the public to learn more about local plant and animal life and have it serve as a local habitat. I can say that as a matter of principle I would support efforts to convey certain town owned land to the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. However, I would need more specific

information prior to making any particular commitments regarding land conveyance.

I believe that we have an obligation to foster the existence of certain plant and animal species that are native to this area and clearly the Conservation Commission is better prepared to handle that responsibility. On balance, if a particular parcel of town owned land in Lexington can prove to be essential to maintaining a well balanced local ecosystem, then I would enthusiastically support transferring that parcel of land to the Conservation Commission. I have supported the effort to preserve vernal pools in Concord where they have 36 certified vernal pools. Lexington has 6 certified vernal pools. Vernal pools are essential in maintaining certain native species of plant and animal life. Without the effort to identify and preserve vernal pools, certain native species such as the Blue-Spotted Salamander and the Jefferson Salamander, which have been classified as species of "special concern" in Massachusetts, would in all likelihood vanish from existence in Massachusetts. Many of these vernal pools are located on land maintained by local conservation commissions.

**Sam Silverman**  
Precinct 5  
(781) 861-0368  
smpr@rcn.com

I cannot commit myself in advance of Town Meeting as to how I will vote -- I will need to hear what other Town committees have to say about possible uses for these parcels. But what I can do is tell you what my sympathies are. These are wholeheartedly in favor of adding additional parcels to the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. Under the circumstances of the past few years with one budget crisis after another it seems unlikely that Town Meeting will vote any substantial sums for acquisition of conservation land. This leaves open the possibility of acquiring parcels of unused town land for conservation purposes. I am in favor of this. The town seems to be moving inexorably in the direction of larger, more expensive homes and towards higher density apartment-like complexes. Thus preservation of open land becomes a priority if we are to maintain some semblance of a suburban character. Conservation land is also important from the point of view of providing refuges for native plant species and birds, and for wetlands protection. For all these reasons I consider adding to conservation land a priority, and would vote for warrant articles to achieve this, provided that no greater compelling interest can be shown by other groups in town.

**Pastor Jed Snyder**  
**Precinct 5**  
**781-863-8450**  
**jednyder@rcn.com**

The desire to conserve open land for future generations is a delightful endeavor. I would wholeheartedly endorse the transfer of the small parcel along the bike path to the Conservation Commission. The other two parcels seem to have some potential for either dual use or perhaps should be subdivided for conservation and other use. I would love to see if at least one more soccer field could be built off Lowell Street. When a greater number of details become known it will place myself and others, I presume, in better circumstances for a more educated vote. My general attitude is positive and open.

**Bebe Fallick**  
**Precinct 6**  
**781-862-7208**  
**sopitown@rcn.com**

I have just returned from a trip to the Galapagos Islands and am even more committed to preservation of the environment and conservation. During the years in which I have been a member of the Conservation Commission, I have observed how even the smallest acquisition of land can have a positive impact. The Bedford Street Bikepath Site abuts current Conservation land and will contribute to the Commission's hope for a 50' strip along the bikepath. The Highland Ave-Marrett Road Site came under scrutiny in the recent past, and the North Street Sand Pits Site abuts land under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Committee. Although these are all "town-owned" pieces of land, the Town currently has legal authority to build upon or sell these pieces. Transfer to Conservation jurisdiction would prevent such possibilities.

**Meg Himmel**  
**Precinct 6**  
**781/862-3580**  
**Himmel@rcn.com**

Lexington's conservation land enhances the community by preserving open spaces and protecting wildlife habitat. The extent of our conservation lands sets this community apart. An appreciation for open space is clearly one of Lexington's core values. Significant portions of property currently under Lexington Conservation Commission jurisdiction consist of wetlands, ponds, streams, and other environmentally sensitive areas. The community is fortunate that

the dedicated, seasoned Lexington Conservation Commissioners take their stewardship of these lands so seriously.

I favor transferring the Sand Pits Site, the Bedford Street-Bike Path Site, and the Highland Avenue – Marrett Road Site to Conservation jurisdiction for several reasons. Significant portions of these properties appear to be wetlands, and are therefore protected from any type of development. The parcels also appear to be virgin land; no impact from historic development is evident. Such parcels have become very scarce in Lexington and warrant preservation. Lastly, as the pressure to develop every available site increases, we will depend more and more on public lands for open spaces. Conservation Commission jurisdiction will assure the preservation of these open spaces in perpetuity.

**Gerald A. Lacey**  
**Precinct 6**  
**781 862 5923**  
**Marjer@aol.com**

In principle, I am in favor of Land Conservation. I do not know enough about the pieces of land cited in your letter to take a position on these particular parcels at this time. I look forward to learning more about your proposal. Had my finances permitted, I would have bought the land at 16 Meriam Street, upon which was located a historical plaque placed by the town, and donated it to the commission. One need only drive past the subject site today to understand why.

**Jane Pagett**  
**Precinct 6**  
**781-862-1294**  
**JRPagett@rcn.com**

The Town's appearance is enhanced by the presence of conservation land. The visual density of development is reduced. Meadows, woods and wetlands provide a habitat for plant and animal life. Private land owners often get high prices to sell parcels to developers, and the Conservation Commission is limited in its ability to acquire funds and purchase those parcels before they are developed. Therefore, when Town-owned property is considered appropriate for conservation, an opportunity exists to set aside land without enormous expenditures. There is one caveat: we need to be sure that we will not need to use the land for alternative purposes (i.e. school buildings or a senior center, assuming the land is buildable). The Bedford Street Bike Path Site looks very small and probably could be transferred to

conservation. The Marrett Road Site and the Sand Pits Site should be reviewed for buildability. If either or both are buildable, they still may be transferred into conservation. Future possible use simply becomes one of the considerations in the decision.

**Edith Sandy**  
Precinct 6  
(781) 862-1365

I have been a member of CLC almost since its founding in the late 60's. As such, I have always appreciated the economic, social, and environmental benefits of the purchase of land for conservation. I have supported conservation purchases throughout my 30 years in Town Meeting, and, in general, continue to do so.

I recognize that there are other legitimate uses of Town land, including schools, recreation, moderate-income housing, etc. It seems to me that the pond at the North Street site might have some potential for future development as a swimming area. I want to be sure that transfer to Conservation doesn't preclude that long-term option. I wholeheartedly support the transfer of the other two sites to Conservation at this time.

Several years ago, the Recreation Committee wanted to build soccer fields at Hennessy Field (near Estabrook school), and I supported transferring the land to the Conservation Commission because I felt that soccer fields would destroy the unique ecological qualities of that property, as well as its usefulness for elementary school environmental education.

**Sheldon Spector**  
Precinct 6  
861-1607  
duckysq@aol.com

While it is difficult to fully comment on and commit to a position at this time on such land transfers to the controlled protection of the Conservation Commission without a full evaluation of the specific detailed proposals on Town Meeting floor, I have supported numerous Conservation transfers and purchases in the past including the still to be acquired huge Grove Street parcels and fully expect to continue to do so. I have traversed 2 of the parcels in question (North and Highland Street parcels) several times as part of casual walks I take and to evaluate previous land use discussions and debates at Town Meeting and at Committee meetings and am familiar with the beauty of these parcels. I noticed that the drawing

of the North Street site may include acreage already identified as Recreation Land near the pond area which I found out today is not part of the Conservation Commission's forthcoming transfer request and I recall discussions regarding placing a few benches and conservation paths near the pond area which is still to be accomplished and something I really support. The bike path site is small (15,000 square feet or so) and adjacent to Conservation land and appears geographically to be an obvious choice for transfer, especially as discussions of the future use of the DPW Garage site continue.

**Fred H. Martin**  
Precinct 7  
781-861-8773  
smartin29@rcn.com

I am in support of all three transfers of town owned land to conservation. Transfers mean that there is no additional cost to the taxpayer, just a re-classification from potential use to forever conservation. This is a very cost-effective and sensitive use of these parcels. Sand Pit is a beautiful site and while not economically practical for development it is ideal for recreation. It's quiet, off a rural road (North Street) and affords a "little walk in the woods." It's wonderful to have these out of the way retreats right in the midst of our Lexington. The Bike Path Site provides an additional buffer bordering on the DPW land. Moving this unbuildable small parcel into conservation will ensure a perpetual barrier for the bike path with respect to DPW activities and any future use. The sprawling Highland Avenue acreage is partially wet and does not provide any real opportunity for town use or future development. Transference will keep the property in its natural state for enjoyment and provide just an extra measure of permanent open space for the town. In each case these three transfers are most appropriate. Conservation lands are precious and I think we should take advantage of this opportunity.

**Richard H. Battin**  
Precinct 8  
781-562-3639  
battin@alum.mit.edu

I have always supported the acquisition of conservation land for the protection of valuable wetland resources and for open space. The North Street land would be consolidated with abutting recreational land for hiking and passive recreation.

As there are currently no other overarching municipal uses being considered for these parcels, I plan to support this article. This is a very fitting way to celebrate the Conservation Commission's fortieth anniversary.

**Larry Belvin**  
Precinct 8

**781.674.0246 [home]; 978.901.8180 [work]**  
**lbelvin@world.std.com**

After visiting the three sites, I fully understand why Citizens for Lexington Conservation proposes the transfer of these parcels of Town-owned property to the Conservation Commission. Karen Mullins, the Conservation Administrator, provided me valuable information about the reasons for these requests and about the features of each of the three sites. It is nearly impossible to envision any development or other use of the small parcel of land to the rear of both 22 Revere Street and the DPW facility that would not seriously compromise the stream that flows behind the DPW land and underneath the bicycle path. The Highland Avenue land appears to be a natural fit for care and management by the Conservation Commission, given that there is significant water run-off from the hilly areas on the eastern side of the parcel and since the land to the west of the site is already under Conservation Commission jurisdiction. The larger piece of the North Street Sand Pits land, with its two ponds, is a natural choice to be placed under Conservation Commission jurisdiction. I cannot envision this site as a suitable location for any kind of development.

As a responsible and fair Town Meeting member, I would listen carefully during Town Meeting to any opponents of these transfers and would weigh their opinions against the opinions of those who support the transfers. Nevertheless, I wholeheartedly support the proposed transfers to Conservation Commission jurisdiction, given my current understanding of the features and characteristics of these three sites.

**Anne Frymer**  
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As a 25 year Lexington resident I know how quickly any undeveloped land parcel may suddenly be subject to opportunistic development. I realize the town itself often finds itself under pressure to use Town-owned land for what might be for the benefit of the few. Therefore, I would gladly

support the transfer of the three parcels in question from the Town to the Conservation Commission.



**Ingrid H. Klimoff**  
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I would like to see the proposed sites transferred to conservation. It especially would be good for the Highland Ave., Marrett Road site, since a portion of it is adjacent to conservation. It is a beautiful area; I have walked there several times. (Perhaps the eastern corner, next to houses and future houses, could be kept separate, and saved for other usage.)

**Melinda Walker**  
Precinct 8  
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I believe it is important to continue to make the conservation of land a priority in Lexington. However, since the parcels of land as designated in the article in the warrant are currently owned by the Town of Lexington, I think it is important to

make sure that the town does not currently have any plans to use the parcels as sites for future building projects. If the town has no such plans under consideration, then I think transferring the properties to the Conservation's jurisdiction would be wise and would contribute to the quality of life in Lexington.

**Richard Canale**  
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I have always supported Conservation Commission's Articles asking for the transfer of land to Conservation jurisdiction. I fully expect to support this year's warrant articles by the Lexington Conservation Commission.

**Helen Cohen**  
Precinct 9  
See Candidate for School Committee

**Susan Elberger**  
Precinct 9  
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I once heard someone say that ethical dilemmas are not matters of determining "right" from "wrong", but of determining which of competing "rights" to honor. I find myself in this position with CLC's question.

Land transfers to the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction leads to several outcomes, some intended and others perhaps not. By providing that the land cannot be developed, the town's appeal as a community with open space is preserved. This in turn helps to make the town an attractive place to live while it also diminishes the amount of buildable land, which then leads to pressures on housing stock. An eventual outcome of this process, as we have seen dramatically over the last few years, is that real estate prices have soared, making Lexington a community where only the wealthy are able to purchase homes.

I support the transfer of the three identified parcels to Conservation, as I have done with other requests from Conservation in the past. I also need to be clear that the lack of reasonably priced housing causes me great concern, and that there may be a time in the future when I will vote against Conservation's request for land transfers for this reason.

**Janet H. Post**  
Precinct 9  
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I would prefer that the Conservation Commission acquire all foresty-types of Town-owned property. I can see the Town being tempted to satisfy a budget crunch by selling seemingly worthless land to developers. I would much rather see majestic trees with trails for families to hike and walk their dogs than huge majestic houses of the type that are being built everywhere.

Every acre of conservation land is a plus for Lexington's quality of life.

**Fred Rosenberg**  
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The lot off of North Street has been considered for use by the Senior Center site committee and the School swing-space site committee (of which I was a member). Both found it unsuitable because of its limited size and cost for development. It is thickly wooded rolling land abutting too heavily traveled Lowell Street. I consider it to be a good candidate for Conservation land.

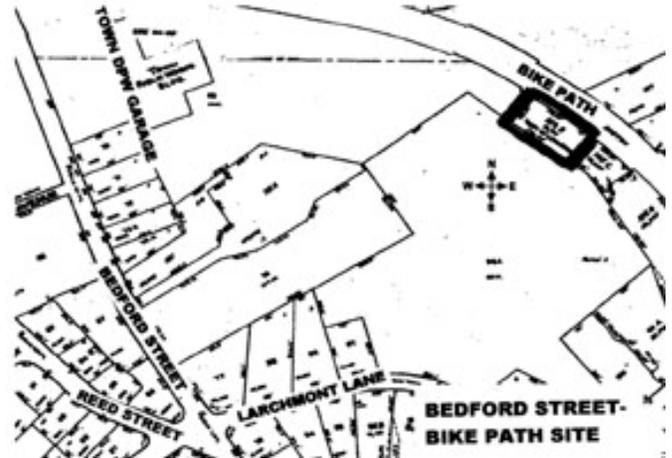
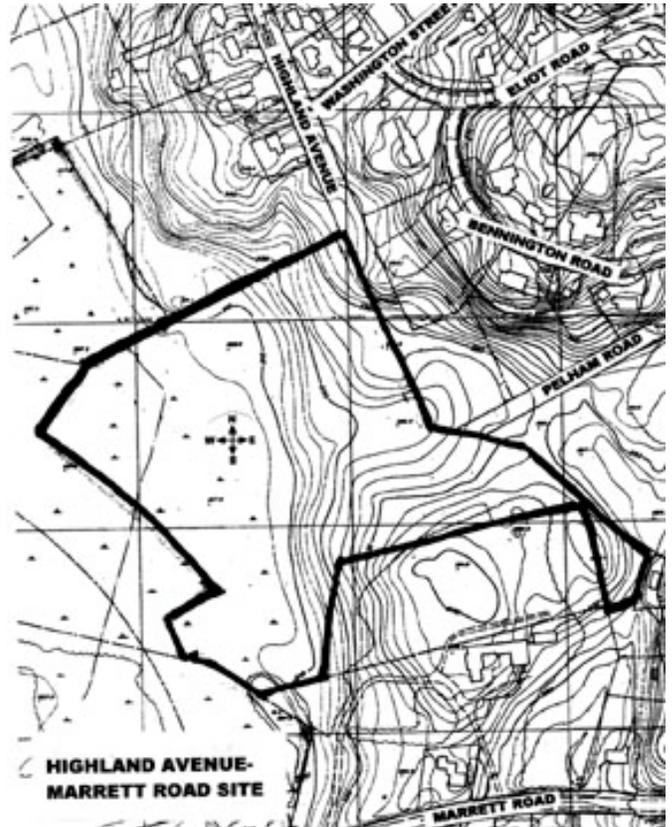
As a School Committee member I voted to transfer the wooded property off of Pelham Road to the town since it was not suitable as a school site because of its poor access. The Senior Center site committee also considered it for use, though I would consider the site unsuitable for a senior center for the same access reasons. This site would also be a good candidate for Conservation land, though I would possibly consider the sale of one or two lots by the town as long as public access is maintained.

I am not familiar with the small lot adjoining the bike path behind DPW. While DPW might have a use for it, I think that it might better serve as the beginning of a narrow buffer between DPW and the bikeway all the way to Bedford Street.

I would not commit to voting for transfer of any of these properties without first hearing at Town Meeting what if any other uses the Selectmen might recommend. However, from what I currently know, I would support transfer to Conservation.

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I am in favor of transferring town-owned property that the Conservation Commission has identified as appropriate for protection. As buildable land has become scarcer, developers are willing to pay higher prices to obtain land upon which to build. Most land in Lexington has been developed, and remaining open space should not be rezoned to allow for further development. While I recognize the demand for housing, I feel strongly that steps must be taken to protect Lexington's natural resources, and the transfer of open space to the Conservation Commission is certainly one of the ways to do so.



*Please note that the map of the sand pits above, which was sent to the candidates, is out of date. The Conservation Commission is only asking for the small crescent fronting North and Lowell Streets. The rest of the site is already under Parks and Recreation jurisdiction, and the Conservation Commission is not asking to change it.*