

T H E
WALDEN
WOODS
PROJECT



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Don Henley
Founder and President

Kathi Anderson
Executive Director

April 14, 2025

Members of the Concord Select Board
Town House
22 Monument Square
P.O. Box 535
Concord, MA 01742

Dear Ms. Hartman, Ms. Ackerman, Mr. Howell, Ms. Rovelli and Mr. McKennitt:

I am forwarding the attached letter on behalf of The Walden Woods Project (WWP) and the 208 co-signers who reside in Concord.

The letter respectfully requests the Select Board to commence discussions with The Walden Woods Project and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) concerning the restoration and preservation of the town municipal property at 759 Walden Street, through a negotiated Conservation Restriction over the 35-acre parcel. The terms of the CR, including allowable uses of the property, would be negotiated and mutually agreed upon. The CR would be held by DCR.

We believe that this is the opportune time for discussions to begin ~ while land use decisions are being considered involving newly available acreage at MCI, at 2229 Main Street and other sites. With the formation of the Land Use Matrix Committee, it is important that the former landfill site is included in the scope of the Committee's charge, and that concurrent discussions between the Select Board, DCR, and The Walden Woods Project commence in the near term.

The 35-acre municipal site is located on the border of Walden Pond State Reservation. It has long had ecological, historical and aesthetic effects on Walden ~ a National Historic Landmark, recently designated as one of America's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The municipal site hosts a variety of public works functions, solar panels, and the former Concord landfill that the town voted to close in 1994.

The addendum to the letter provides a detailed history of the site, beginning in 1958 with the town's decision to use the property for a temporary landfill, but to restore the site to its natural condition for permanent conservation, as soon as possible. Now, 67 years later, it is time to fulfill that promise.

Potential opportunities and benefits to Concord residents from a CR over the site, include:

Establishing the town's position as a leader in protecting a globally significant historic area while furthering the town's goals of preserving open space and enhancing recreational opportunities;

Allowing continued use of the existing solar array and a cell tower, if present;


Creation of new trails and a wildlife/pedestrian overpass enabling a safe crossing from Brister's Hill to the landfill and Walden Pond via the Bay Circuit Trail;

Creation of grassland and pollinator habitat for wildlife;

A variety of onsite educational programming opportunities relating to the natural environment, land restoration and the history of the former landfill site, located in the heart of Thoreau's Walden Woods.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be most grateful for your response, which will be shared with the co-signers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathi Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kathi Anderson
Executive Director

cc: Kerry Lafleur
Megan Zammuto
Paul Boehm