



Town of Lexington, Massachusetts

Greenways Corridor Committee

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To: Lexington Select Board

Re: Article 7, Special Town Meeting 2020-3, Acquisition of 39 Highland Avenue

Date: October 26, 2020

The Greenways Corridor Committee wishes to register its strong support for the acquisition by the Town of the property at 39 Highland Avenue. While in favor of the acquisition of the property for its open space value contiguous with the Upper Vine Brook Conservation Property, what is of most interest to the Committee is the existence of a social trail crossing the back side of the property which would provide a direct link to the recently acquired town property at the end of Sherburne Road. The ability to upgrade this social trail where it leaves the 39 Highland Ave property and connect it to the end of Sherburne Road, Sherburne Road South, or both, via a proposed new trail segment to be built across the previously acquired town parcel at the end of Sherburne Road utilizing boardwalks as has been successfully done on other town properties, would provide access to the Upper Vine Brook/Cotton Farm properties for the Sherburne Road/Worthen Road neighborhoods that presently does not exist. It would also provide an important element in a proposal to link the Community Center to the Upper Vine Brook trail system and create a walking connection to both Lexington High and Clarke Middle School that is the subject of a \$1 million earmark in the State's current Environmental Bond Bill.

The Greenways Corridor Committee requests of the Select Board that it convey this letter of support to the current Special Town Meeting, Session 2020-3.

Drafting of this memo was unanimously approved at the Greenways Corridor Committee meeting of October 15, 2020.

Submitted by:

Keith Ohmart
Chair