

November 22, 2016

Michael Lawson, Chair  
Select Board  
Town of Concord  
Box 535  
Concord MA 01742

Dear Members of the Select Board,

On behalf of the Estabrook Woods Access Study Committee, we write to submit our Final Recommendations duly voted at our November 17, 2016 meeting in fulfillment of our committee charge.

The Committee was appointed in April of 2016 and charged with considering how to address the increased pressure for adequate and safe parking at Estabrook Woods trail heads, to review other impacts from increased visitor use, and to make recommendations to the Select Board on or about December 1, 2016.

We met regularly from late April through November. We began our work by reviewing the correspondence that had been received in the months prior to our creation, and continued to review the many emails that were sent to the Committee over the summer and fall. We held two well attended public hearings, one in June to solicit ideas and the second in October with the purpose of presenting preliminary recommendations for public comment. Approximately 60 people came to our hearing in June, and nearly half took the opportunity to share their thoughts with the committee. More than 75 people attended the hearing in October.

As a Committee, we familiarized ourselves with the unique history of land protection and landownership in the Woods, particularly the significance of Harvard University's woodland preserve. We inventoried current access and parking spaces around the Woods, with the help of the Concord Public Works and Natural Resources divisions. Members also visited other conservation lands in Concord and in other communities to assess parking, rules and regulations, and usage.

We used a number of approaches to spread the word about our committee and solicit comments, including a guest commentary in the Concord Journal and the Carlisle Mosquito,

notices at each of the main entry points to the Woods, and through our committee's webpage, which invited public input.

Our agendas, minutes, presentations, maps, documents, and correspondence received and reviewed by the Committee are available in our Committee records.

Following the second public hearing, the Committee amended a few of its preliminary recommendations and took a final vote. The Committee reached consensus on many of our recommendations, and where we lacked consensus we have tried to express our differences in opinion.

The Committee considers two of our recommendations to be most important: These are:

- **Work with town counsel and direct abutters on Estabrook Road to resolve legal uncertainties regarding the current dirt road trail in order to secure permanent public access at this location.**
- **Work with the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) to determine the feasibility and process for constructing a dirt or gravel parking lot for the Punkatasset Town Conservation Land on TTOR's Apthorp property, with a goal of building such a lot as soon as possible**

As we complete our work as a Committee, we are struck by how important it is that the conversation about Estabrook Woods continue after our Committee is discharged. We are still hearing positive suggestions from residents of Concord and Carlisle. And there is much to understand and resolve with important Estabrook partners: Harvard University, the Town of Carlisle, the Concord and Carlisle Land Trusts, The Trustees of Reservations, Middlesex School, and many significant landowners. Their interests and their partnership are critical to the Woods.

We thank you for the opportunity to work together toward the preservation, stewardship and enjoyment of this special place.

Polly Reeve, Co-chair  
Sally Schnitzer, Co-chair  
Jeff Adams  
Kathy Angell  
Nick d'Arbeloff of Carlisle  
Justin King  
Lisa Pohl  
Bonnie Pohlig  
Neil Rasmussen  
Peter Siebert