



February 1, 2016

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Ms. Elizabeth Dolphin
Farmington Land Acquisition Consultant
Town of Farmington
One Monteith Drive
Farmington, CT 06032

Dear Liz,

I am writing to express the Farmington Land Trust's enthusiastic support for the purchase of 8885 South Ridge Road (Lot 7) and 8809 (Lot 6A/B) Settlement Road by the town of Farmington, with the properties to be held as open space.

The Land Trust has a long history of support for the protection of this southern portion of the ridgeline in Farmington - one of the very important undeveloped areas in Farmington. The trap rock ridge extending the length of the eastern boundary of Farmington is the defining geological structure that created the Farmington river valley.

Lots 7&6A/B are part of a contiguous 700-acre tract which we would very much like to see preserved. The Metacomet Trail traverses this ridgeline and is an important segment of the National New England Scenic Trail system. It is a high bio-diversity tract featuring a variety of habitats, wetlands, trap rock cliffs and woodlands. Many of our members hike this area and have worked hard to support this acquisition in meetings with members of the Town Land Acquisition Committee.

The acquisition of these properties as open space would be another important step in the preservation of the southern ridgeline. The town already owns the Wadsworth Memorial tract on the ridge near Lots 7&6A/B, which preserves important geological features, as well as the historical site of a folk legend of Farmington, Will Warren's Den. The Land Trust holds a conservation easement on this property, and it is one of our most frequently visited sites.

The Land Trust has proposed to the Town that a similar arrangement - that is, a grant of a conservation easement - be made for these 107.1 acres of Lots 7&6A/B. The Land Trust would provide stewardship for the properties. An additional easement to the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association would ensure the preservation of the section of the Metacomet Trail. Together, we can preserve this wonderful land and its resources for the use of future generations.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Kramer
President