

# Hopkinton Open Space Committee

## Selection Criteria Abbreviated Checklist

### Purposes Checklist

To qualify for selection a property must meet ALL of the following criteria.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The property is located in or partially in the Town of Hopkinton, or has direct benefit to the Town of Hopkinton.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The property protects the natural heritage and rural character in the best interests of the Town.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent protection for the parcel is assured.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The property meets one or more goals identified in the Hopkinton Master Plan (particularly Chapter IX, *Conservation, Preservation and Open Space* and other sections addressing appropriate and desired uses of natural resources).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation of this property supports careful stewardship of important land and water resources.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The owner of the property is willing to participate in the transaction.

### Resource Value/Public Benefit Checklist

To qualify for selection a property must meet several of the following criteria (listed alphabetically). There is a strong preference for properties that meet multiple criteria.

#### Expansion, Buffers or Linkages

- \_\_\_\_\_ Buffers, expands, or adds other conservation value to existing conservation land
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provides greenways to connect other protected or potentially protected lands
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provides travel corridors for wildlife species
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provides publicly accessible open space in a part of town that doesn't have much or any

#### Habitat for Wildlife and Native Plant Species

- \_\_\_\_\_ Contains important wildlife habitat, rare plants or animals, vernal pools or exemplary natural plant communities

### Large Blocks of Land

- \_\_\_\_\_ Contributes to the formation or expansion of large blocks of protected land (which may be owned by single or multiple landowners)

### Outdoor Recreation

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is suitable for low impact public recreation such as trails for walking/hiking/cross country skiing and enjoying nature
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has been traditionally used by the public for recreation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provides important linkages to existing or planned greenways, including in and around Hopkinton and Contoocook villages
- \_\_\_\_\_ Protects the rail corridor

### Public Access

- \_\_\_\_\_ Will be made available for public access
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provides public access to waterways for fishing, swimming or low impact boating
- \_\_\_\_\_ Increases opportunities for townspeople to access public conservation lands by foot from their homes

### Rural Character

- \_\_\_\_\_ Preserves iconic parcels, roadside stone walls, and open fields along major traveled routes in town (entrances to and roads connecting the villages)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retains distinctions between villages and rural areas

### Scenery

- \_\_\_\_\_ Protects scenic view observation points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provides scenic views visible from roads and public ways

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### Water Resources

- \_\_\_\_\_ Contains aquifer recharge areas, wellhead areas, surface waters, or other lands valuable for the protection of drinking water supplies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contains river frontage, shorelands, riparian corridors, floodplains, or important wetlands
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contains lakes or ponds

### Working Landscape

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is actively and well managed for agriculture
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is actively and well managed for forestry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has soils with important agricultural value (regardless of present use)

### Other Benefit

- \_\_\_\_\_ Provides other significant public conservation benefit in the best interest of the town, describe \_\_\_\_\_.

### Other Criteria Checklist

These additional criteria may affect the town's interest in a given property and its priority for acquisition.

#### Donation Opportunities

- \_\_\_\_\_ The property may be acquired by donation or below appraised value.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The property has a high resource value as compared to the purchase price.

#### Leverages Funding

- \_\_\_\_\_ The project has high probability for additional funding from sources other than municipal funds.

#### Potential for Conversion

- \_\_\_\_\_ The property has potential for immediate change out of open space.

### Feasibility Checklist

Properties must also meet the following general feasibility criteria.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The property is large enough to be significant for its purpose.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The property contains no hazardous waste or other contaminants, or clean-up of any such materials can be accomplished at a reasonable cost.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The property is not infested with undesirable and/or invasive species that could interfere with the primary reason for protecting the property.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are no unusual or difficult management considerations associated with this property.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adjacent properties are not being, and are not likely to be, developed in a manner that would significantly diminish the conservation or public values of the property.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The landowner does not insist on provisions that would seriously diminish the property's primary conservation or public values or the town's ability to enforce an easement and/or manage the land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are no ethical or image problems associated with project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If the property is part of a development proposal, the overall project has a beneficial impact on conserving resources.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clear title to the property can be acquired in a timely fashion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This project is otherwise in the best interest of the town.

Refer to the *Hopkinton Open Space Committee Background, Procedures & Policies* for a complete description of these criteria and authorizing language. This checklist is abbreviated for easier use in the field.