

Westford Land Preservation Foundation, Inc.

Conserve O'Brien Farm



O'Brien Farm

18 Vose Road, Westford

Located on one of Westford's scenic rural roads, the historically significant O'Brien Farm dates back to the late 18th century; it has been owned by four generations of the same family since 1886. Originally operated as a general farm with animals, vegetables and strawberries, the land is now actively managed for the benefit of wildlife. The 25-acre property boasts a variety of valuable habitat including open meadows, forested uplands, and perennial Pond Brook. O'Brien Farm is also

exceptional from recreational, historic, and scenic perspectives. The property contains a network of trails suitable for walking, horseback riding, and cross country skiing. The original 18th century barn remains on the land. And the historic rock walls, fields and woodlands of the farm are integral to the landscape of Vose Road, a designated "Scenic Road" by vote of Town Meeting. Due to its significant ecological, historic, scenic and recreational values, O'Brien Farm was specifically identified as a "Land of Conservation Interest" by the Town of Westford in its 2010—2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The Opportunity

The owner of O'Brien Farm, who recently inherited the property, has determined that it is time to sell at least a portion of the land. With 2,200 feet of road frontage and a total of 25 acres, the property could be subdivided to create multiple new house lots. Developers have expressed interest, however the owner has decided to provide a window of opportunity for a conservation purchase before accepting any offers. The Westford Land Preservation Foundation, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and the Town of Westford are negotiating an agreement to purchase a Conservation Restriction (CR) that would permanently protect 23 of the 25 acres at a discounted price. The CR would prohibit any development while allowing for conservation, recreation, agriculture and other uses.

Fundraising

To make this project a reality, the Westford Land Preservation Foundation and Sudbury Valley Trustees have committed to raising \$185,000 in private gifts and state grants. The Conservation Commission and the Community Preservation Committee have indicated support for the project and are in the process of completing their evaluation work. If approved, a request for the balance of the funding would be brought to voters at the Special Town Meeting on October 15, 2012.

We Need Your Help!

The more private money we can raise this summer, prior to important decision dates by Town boards and voters, the stronger the conservation message and the more likely the project is to be approved. Please help conserve this memorable property by making a tax-deductible gift to the Campaign to Conserve O'Brien Farm today! For more information, please see www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org or www.WestfordLandPreservationFoundation.org, or contact Susan Crane, SVT, at scrane@svtweb.org or Ron Johnson, WLPF, at rjohn927@comcast.net.



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preserving land in its natural state



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