



## TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Open Space Committee

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • 508-393-5019 • 508-393-6996 Fax

---

TO: Conservation Commission  
FROM: Open Space Committee  
RE: 429 & 432 Whitney Street – Town’s Right of First Refusal  
DATE: August 4, 2021

The Open Space Committee considered the Town’s Right of First Refusal for 429 Whitney Street (Map 15, Parcel 9) & 432 Whitney Street, (Map 15, Parcel 22) upon exit from the MGL Chapter 61A Program at their August 4 meeting.

The Committee believes the property at 432 Whitney Street could provide long term conservation value to the Town as open space.

When evaluating properties for open space, the Committee considers the following conservation criteria:

1. Proximity, connection to and/or expansion of existing open space.
2. Possibility for recreational use.
3. Possibility for adverse impact through development.
4. Urgency of need to the Town.
5. Allowable for purchase through the Community Preservation Act funding.

The values exhibited by 432 Whitney Street include the extension of existing open space of the Wachusett Aqueduct to the west. It also abuts the Bearfoot Brook Flood Control Facility to the south containing tributary to the Assabet River, therefore providing water resource protection. The property could also provide recreational use through a possible trail system.

After reviewing the conservation values of the parcel, the Committee recommends the Town considers the purchase of the parcel at 432 Whitney Street.

The Open Space Committee recommends that the Town does not exercise the right of first refusal at 429 Whitney Street due to the lack of conservation values and risk associated with the possible contamination.