

June 24, 2020

Commissioner Katie Dykes
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Services
79 Elm Street, 6th Floor
Hartford, CT 06070

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

At the Planning Commission meeting of June 23, 2020, the Commissioners voted unanimously to send a positive referral to the Board of Selectmen for of the acquisition of the Meadowood property.

The Town's Plan of Conservation and Development calls to protect natural resources and water quality, create a meaningful open space system, and preserve the character of the community. This property meets all of these criteria, protecting aquifer recharge areas, strategically linking Massacoe State Forest and McLean Game Refuge, and preserving an iconic landscape that holds special historic significance in Simsbury and the State's history. The preservation outcome also calls for agricultural use on parts of the property, along with the preservation of historic tobacco barns. These barns and fields are specifically noted in the list of current resources that contribute to the character of the town.

This property has the opportunity to bring a host of economic opportunities to the Town of Simsbury. The Trust for Public Land has presented to the Town on the numerous economic benefits that open space preservation brings to communities, including enhancing localized property values, bolstering tourism and local business activity, providing natural goods and services, supporting farming and forest industry, and increasing public health.

This project will provide a meaningful recreational resource and cultural site to our community, and so we ask that you act favorably on this application to the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant program.

Sincerely,

William Rice, Chair
On behalf of the Commission