

From: **Adam Goodman** <agoodman@aspetucklandtrust.org>
Date: Thu, Aug 31, 2023 at 12:45 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OSWA Letter of Support - Land in Weston
To: skorsh@westonct.gov <skorsh@westonct.gov>
CC: jpjura@westonct.gov <jpjura@westonct.gov>

Hi Sally,

We have an agreement with the Belknap Family to purchase the 20-acre Belknap Property on Wampum Hill Road. For reference see the attached map showing the property circled in red. This Belknap property is a key acquisition in our 705-acre Weston Wilton Forest Reserve assemblage project and will provide trail connectivity and a southern parking lot for visitors of the Forest Reserve and beyond. Upper Parish Drive on the Fromson Strassler side will provide parking on the northern end.

We are writing a grant to the CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) program to purchase this property, which we are calling Belknap II. You may recall that this same state funding program awarded us \$625,000 for the Fromson Strassler property purchase.

I am writing to ask for a letter of support from the Weston Planning and Zoning Commission.

To make this as easy as possible for you please see the attached Draft letter of support template (LOS). The DEEP has advised us to have our recommenders personalize their letters and we would so appreciate if you could describe how the proposed acquisition addresses an identified need or goal from your perspective.

Please use your letterhead and send the letter back to me before Tuesday September 26.

I so appreciate your leadership and support of our local conservation efforts! If you have any questions, please email or call me (845-249-9956).

Thank you!

Adam Goodman
Land Protection Specialist
Aspetuck Land Trust
PO Box 444, Westport, CT 06881
agoodman@aspetucklandtrust.org
845-249-9956