



People Friendly Stamford

www.peoplestamford.org

City of Stamford Board of Representatives
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06901

August 30, 2021

Re: Comment on F30.490 - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Capital Budget) for Open Space Acquisition

Dear Members of the Board of Representatives:

We are People Friendly Stamford, a local community advocacy group working to transform Stamford neighborhoods to make them more walkable, bikeable, economically vibrant, affordable, and less reliant on cars. We are supportive of actions to reduce environmental impacts via carbon sequestration in rural areas, maintaining key ecological resources, and expanding opportunities that reconnect residents with nature. We believe the following commitments would ensure the proposed \$1 million of city funding would be appropriately spent and benefit all Stamford residents:

Nature Trails Open to All Residents

While the Stamford Land Trust has provided great value to current and future residents, not all Trust lands include designated walking trails that offer recreational opportunity and protect the surrounding environment. The Stamford Land Trust should commit to providing and maintaining nature trails throughout the property to ensure that all visitors can enjoy the land while protecting the surrounding natural habitat.

Adequate Access for All Residents

All residents should have equal access to amenities supported by taxpayer dollars, including residents who do not or cannot drive. The City of Stamford should commit to adequately connect the property access points to current bike and pedestrian networks, to the extent possible. The City and Stamford Land Trust should also collaborate to connect the property to existing publicly accessible lands in the vicinity (not limited to Newman Mills Park, Taylor Preserve and Helen Altschul Preserve) to provide more equitable access for all residents to nature trails and any on-site amenities.

Proper Communication to All Residents

The City of Stamford and the Stamford Land Trust should commit to properly communicating any available trails and access points. Visible signage should be installed on-site at main access points with operating hours, proper use and any restrictions. Trail maps indicating access points and use restrictions should be made available on the City and Trust websites.

We appreciate the collaboration to make this purchase a reality and hope the same energy will be put toward ensuring this is an accessible resource that benefits all interested Stamford residents.

Sincerely,
People Friendly Stamford
info@peoplestamford.org