

Article 13 – March 14 Town Ballot

CONSERVATION, CITIZENSHIP AND COMMUNITY

To see if the town will vote to deposit, 50% of the revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (the land use change tax) into the Town's Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5 III as Authorized by RSA 79-A:25 II.

“Land conservation takes us out of our private lives to accomplish something greater for ourselves and our neighbors. To say ‘this is my home and I care about it enough to protect it’ is the essence of citizenship, and to act on such words moves us from isolation to community.” Peter Forbes, Trust for Public Lands

WHAT – Your Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee are working hard to conserve Deerfield’s special places, undeveloped lands with significant conservation value. Deerfield’s Conservation Fund is essential to the success of this effort. The Fund currently receives 25% of Deerfield’s land use change tax, a tax levied on open land that has been in current use assessment and is converted to development. Increasing this to 50% will enable the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee to be more effective and responsive in conserving Deerfield’s special places. It makes sense that land being developed, which costs the town money in services, partly pays for protecting important open lands that remain.

HOW – The Conservation Commission protects lands with significant conservation value in cooperation with landowners who voluntarily agree to extinguish their development rights by placing a conservation easement on their property, or by donating or selling land to the town for conservation purposes (Examples – Weiss Town Forest and Peg King Park). Five land conservation projects involving over 450 acres are currently in progress with related costs and expenses totaling \$555,000. With a current balance of \$482,247, the Town’s Conservation Fund falls short of meeting this need by \$72,753.

WHY – The people of Deerfield derive many important benefits from protecting undeveloped lands with significant conservation value, such as:

- Preservation of rural character
- Protection of water resources - quality, quantity and supply
- Recreational opportunities
- Air quality
- Scenery and natural beauty
- Wildlife habitat
- Wildlife travel routes
- Preservation of biodiversity – the region’s native plants and animals

VOTE on March 14th – Deerfield Community School
Watch for Deerfield’s Open Space Plan draft at www.ci.deerfield-nh.us

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