

From: [Gary Banks](#)
To: [Kim Gorman](#)
Cc: [Roland Bartl](#)
Subject: 040 - IV. - Central Street PCRC Application
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:46:05 AM

While I support and respect the right of Joy and Paul Madden to sell a portion of their property and was pleased when I read in the Beacon that they had been able to attain their goal, I was disappointed that the Town of Acton did not choose to purchase the property. This piece of land was and is uniquely suited to remain town land for three reasons:

(1) It would have allowed the town to add at least two acres to Mt. Hope Cemetery. (The town has, in fact, already been using some of this property as evidenced by the storage building and cemetery materials currently located on the property).

(2) From a historical perspective, it would have preserved what had been a commercial cranberry bog complete with the original earthen dam still in existence as part of West Acton's agricultural history.

(3) It would have allowed hikers to enter the woods from Central Street walking along a trail across land which is already labeled as part of the Heath Hen Meadow Conservation Land on their trail map sponsored by the Land Stewardship Committee and the Acton Conservation Commission (www.actontrails.org/MapHeathHenMeadow.htm or page thirty nine in the publication: Town of Acton Guide to Conservation Lands) even though it is part of this property. From there, continuing to Heath Hen Brook, in the winter until a connecting bridge could be built for year round use, Stow Conservation trails can be accessed and can be hiked through to Boxborough Conservation trails making one contiguous loop from Central Street in Acton to Flag Hill Conservation land in Boxborough along currently established trails crossing only West Acton Road.

Any one of these reasons would have been sufficient rational for Acton to purchase this unique piece of property and, collectively, they allow me to appreciate that an important opportunity has been lost.

Further, as I reviewed the Development Impact Report portion of the application, I was confused by two responses which appear to contradict some of the above. Item seventeen states that the site is presently not used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area when in fact the Acton Conservation Commission has been encouraging people to use it for years and has provided a trail across the land for that purpose. Item twenty three states that it has no historical significance when I believe the existence of what had been a commercial cranberry bog is of historical significance with regard to the agricultural history of West Acton.

If I can further address any of the above please feel free to contact me.

Gary Banks
76 Willow Street
Acton, Ma.
978.264.4961

Sent from my iPad