



could be used toward the purchase of the 130 acre Town Forest. Dave Adams pointed out that the Town currently pays an annual loan payment for the Spiller property. This expense would disappear upon the sale of the property and be replaced by the loan payment for the 130 acres.

Dave Adams pointed out that if the one acre lot being retained by the owner is developed, that would generate additional tax revenue for the Town.

Dave Adams thanked the group of passionate Westford residents who were responsible for making this happen: Pat Haller, Gordon Gebauer, Steve Knight, Heather Armata, Wendy Doane, Jeff Hutchins, Melissa Manka, Tom Orfeo, Sarah Pinto, Don Pouliot, Alex Weinhagen and Dave Whitney.

Pat Haller recognized the efforts of Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust), Ethan Tapper (county forester), Dave Adams (State Biologist, Fish & Wildlife), Jens Hilke (conservation biologist), Charlie Hancock (owners' forester) and others that were also instrumental in making this project happen.

Joan Farmer feels this is a great project and supports it 100%. She believes it will enhance the quality of life in Westford. Between that and the additional revenue the Town will receive, she can't think of a reason not to approve the project.

Martha Heath asked if the Selectboard has made a definite decision to use the proceeds from the sale of the 20 acre parcel and Spiller lot toward the purchase of the 130 acres. Dave advised that the properties recently went under contract. The Board has informally discussed the using the funds to offset the cost of purchasing the 130 acres however it has not made a formal decision.

John Hackley asked if the 130 acres will be open to hunting and trapping. Dave Adams can't think of a reason at the moment why hunting and trapping would be prohibited.

Bob Heiser stated there will be an easement on the farm land and an easement on the Town Forest land. The easements protect the agricultural use as well keeping the Forest open. The Forest will be open to for public access for hiking. The Town can decide if it wants to limit other uses such as biking, snowmobiling, and hunting.

Seth Jensen spoke in favor of the project. He appreciates the education benefit the property will provide as well as preserving the land to be developed like neighboring towns.

Marcus Pante stated that properties like this is why his family decided to live in Westford. He would like to see the trails open for biking. He supports the project.

Ethan Trapper advised that the Town will be able to shape the Town Forest by deciding what it wants to allow on the property within the terms of the easement. There are other forests in Chittenden County that are highly successful and support a variety of activities such as hunting and timber harvesting. He is excited at the prospect of seeing this property become and Town Forest and how it's going to serve the community.

Tony Pouliot stated that the Town has lost a lot of parcels to development. Between the Vermont Land Trust, Town and Dave and Lynn Gauthier, this project wouldn't be possible. Tony feels the Town will get a lot out of this project if approved and that grandkids will look back and be proud of us.

Pat Haller stated that regardless of how the vote comes out, he is appreciative of everyone's involvement. He became involved because he couldn't not do something. Pat stated that he and Don would have regretted if they didn't try to. He encouraged others to thank those involved.

Dave Adams thanked Dave and Lynn Gauthier for their patience during this process.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. Adams, Chair  
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers  
Town Administrator

TOWN OF WESTFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
GUEST LIST

Date: November 3, 2016

Name (please print)

Address

Lori Johnson	22 White Church Ln
Ray Geddens	"
GORDON SEBAUER	388 Old #11
STEVE KNIGHT	23 NORTH RD
Eva Pagano	226 Huntley Rd
Maura O'Brien	206 Rollin Irish Rd
Finneas Pappalardo	206 ROLLIN IRISH RD
Martha Heath	342 Rollin Irish Road
Brendan Ryan	Fairfax
Hackley John	Milton VT
Emily Johnson	Milton VT
GEORGE PIGEON	282 Old #11 Rd
Jens Miller (VT Fish & Wildlife)	Burlington VT
DAVE ADAMS (VT FWD)	Essex Jct, VT
ETHAN TAPPER (VT FPR)	BURLINGTON, VT
CHARLES HANCOCK	Mt. Mansfield VT
Tom O'Keefe	1738 RTE 128

Travis Lavalley

Tony Poukot

Amber Haller

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PAT HALLER

JOAN FARMER

ED FARMER

Paul Birnholz

GEORGE PIGEON

Lynn Gauthier

~~David D. Janderson~~

Sarah Pinto

Heather Arnold

Alex Weinhagen

Elizabeth Merrit

Mary Truce

Marcus Ponte

Bob Heiser (VLT)

Sue Adams