

Preliminary Letter of Interest

April 14, 2015

David Nixon
Town Administrator
Town of Hadley
100 Middle Street
Hadley, MA 01035

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Dear Mr. Nixon,

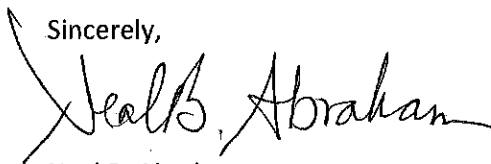
I am writing to explore the possibility of the Town of Hadley's accepting a gift of approximately 20-acres of conservation land from Five Colleges, Incorporated ("FCI"). This proposed gift would be made in the context of FCI's Library Annex project on North Maple St., Hadley. The parcel in question is currently owned by the Lees family, but is under contract with FCI contingent upon, among other things, a favorable permitting outcome.

The parcel includes some land that is of interest to the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) as habitat for the spade foot toad. We are working with Natural Heritage to develop a plan for habitat conservation, improvement, and management in an effort to mitigate the effects of development on the land. FCI is prepared to accept a deed restriction on a portion of the land to meet Natural Heritage habitat protection standards, and to develop and execute a conservation management plan for that portion of the land.

However, it occurred to the development team that the Town might be interested in accepting this land as a donation for open space or other recreational use. We propose that, upon purchasing the land, we deed it to the Town of Hadley with a conservation restriction.

If you believe the Town might consider accepting such a donation, we would be interested in discussing the matter with you at your earliest convenience. We are working on our conservation management plan now and would like to identify a steward for this portion of the land as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Neal B. Abraham
Executive Director

cc: Guilford Mooring, Town of Hadley Select Board Chair ✓