

**ARTICLE 16C: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, or otherwise for open space purposes pursuant to the Community Preservation Program and to accept the deed to the Town of Plymouth of a fee simple interest or less to 348 acres of land, more or less, in the Town of Plymouth located off Old Sandwich Road shown on Assessors Map 62 as Lot Lots 2, 4 and Map 62, Lots 1B, 1 C and further that said land shall be held under the care, custody, and control of the Conservation Commission, and to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to effect said purchase; and as funding therefor to transfer and appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, fund balance, or reserves, and/or borrow a sum of money pursuant to G.L. c.44B or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow said sum and issue bonds and notes therefor; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant a conservation restriction in said property pursuant to G.L. c.44B, §12 and G.L. c.184, §§ 31-33; or take any other action there on.**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

**CPC RECOMMENDATION: Approval** (unanimous)

The Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in favor of article 16c.

**SUMMARY OF THE CPC INTENT:** To protect one of the largest parcels of privately owned, undeveloped parcels in the Town of Plymouth. This property lies north of the Town's Savery Pond Well, an active water supply source for the Town of Plymouth and lying partially within a Department of Environmental Protection designated Zone II and Zone I water supply protection area near the Ellisville Harbor proven wellhead and located within Zone 2, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), a protected area. As a protection of an existing and future well site, the Town would avoid potential expenses for water protection acquisitions.

In 1996, the Town of Plymouth paid NESER, a consulting firm, to do an analysis of top priority land acquisitions critical to the protection of the future water supply of Plymouth residents. A recommended goal was the connection of the two largest recreational and environmental resources of Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod Bay and the Myles Standish State Forest. This proposed connection was referred to as the 'Wishbone' Trail. This 16C acquisition will realize this Myles Standish State Forest connection to Ellisville Harbor State Park. It will become a critical link to the southerly branch of the 'Wishbone' trail and connect Myles Standish State Forest to Cape Cod Bay.

Located in Ellisville Village, in close proximity to the Cedarville Village Center, this parcel provides a significant increase in recreational and open space benefits to residents as well as supporting eco-tourist economic development opportunities in South Plymouth. The property's currently assessed value is \$4,089,100 and the Seller's have agreed to sell it to the Town for \$3,000,000. The CPC and the Town of Plymouth Office

of Environmental Management will apply for two-different grants totaling \$400,000 to \$1,000,000. We are currently working with Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife for additional assistance. With Article 16C the CPC requests that the Town Meeting allocate the \$3,000,000, to be replenished if and when the grants come in and the CPA fund. can be replenished.