

TOWN OF WESTFORD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN HALL
55 Main Street
Westford, Massachusetts 01886

September 20, 2011

TO: Board of Selectmen, Robert Jefferies, Chair

FROM: William Turner, Conservation/Resource Planner

Cc (by email): Jodi Ross, Town Manager

John Mangiaratti

Angus Jennings, Director of Land Use Management

Ernest Hyde, Darrin Wizst, William Harman – Tax Possession Sale Committee

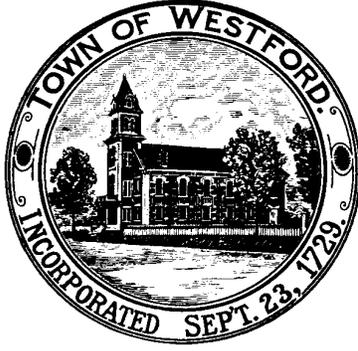
Tina Landry, Administrative Assistant

It is my understanding the Selectmen will be reviewing Special Town Meeting warrant articles at its meeting of 9/27/11. The Conservation Commission has requested two articles which have been placed on the warrant (Articles 10 and 12). Here is additional information for your consideration.

Article 10 (Amendment to definition of “Pond” and “Freshwater Wetland” under local non-zoning wetlands bylaw):

The purpose of these proposed amendments is to make the local bylaw consistent with definitions under the regulations issued for the state Wetlands Protection Act. The current definition of “Pond” under the local non-zoning wetlands bylaw does not include an exemption for active quarries, thereby potentially placing a number of active pits in town in violation of the bylaw. This amendment is intended to provide the same level of protection for these active quarries as afforded under the State Act. The amendment of the term “Freshwater Wetlands” is also meant to exempt active quarries smaller than 10,000 square feet. The amendment to this definition is also meant to make the bylaw consistent with State regulations regarding man made areas for stormwater detention or retention. These areas may take on characteristics of wetlands. However, they must have maintenance work performed on them from time to time. The state regulations exempt these areas as wetlands so as to make it clear that further permitting by the Conservation Commission is not required for maintenance work and this is the intention of this amendment of the local bylaw.

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(Selectmen re: STM 10/17/11 Conservation Commission Warrant Article, 9-20-11, pg. 2)

Article 12: (Transfer of care and custody three parcels located along Vine Brook from
Tax Possession Sale Committee to Conservation commission

These three parcels (Parcel 6 on Assessors' Map 6; Parcel 61 on Map 11; and Parcel 9 on Map 12) are landlocked and unbuildable and lie along a major waterway and consist mainly of wetlands. They abut other properties already under conservation protection, either as town land under care and custody of the Conservation Commission or as other privately held conservation land. Further, these parcels fall within an area determined to be estimated and priority habitat by the state Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. For all these reasons these parcels have a high priority for protection as conservation land under the Open Space and Recreation Plan. I have attached a GIS map showing the location of the parcels.

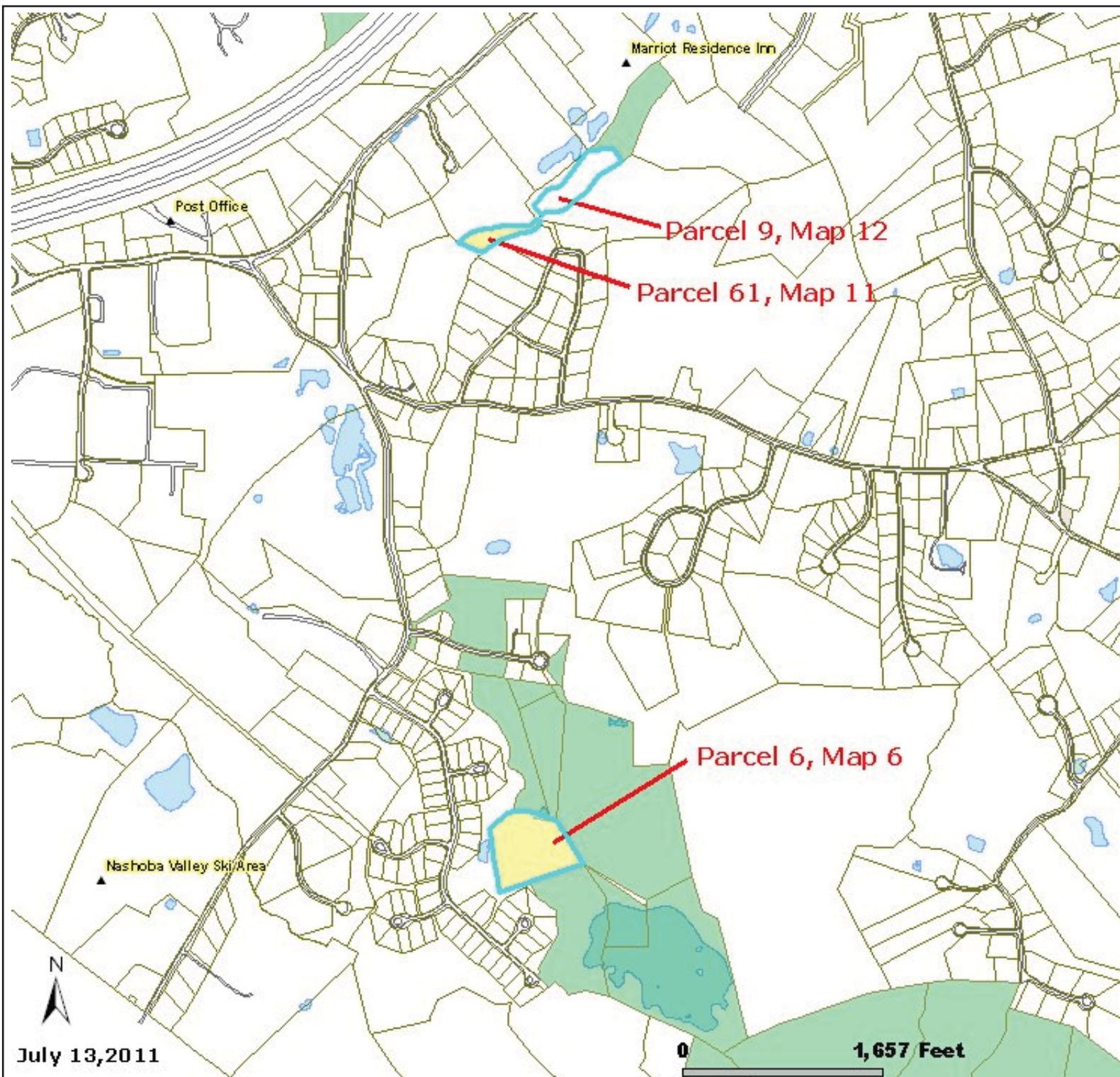


Town of Westford, MA

GIS Map Print

Tax Possession Parcels Along Vine Brook

Overview Map



Disclaimer

Town of Westford, MA makes no warranty or representation as to the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of any of the data. The Town of Westford, MA, shall have no liability for the data or lack thereof, or any decision made or action taken or not