



METACOMET
LAND • TRUST
P.O. Box 231
Franklin, MA 02038

August 24, 2020

Edward J. Burt, Chair
Hopedale Water & Sewer Commission
Via e-mail hopedalewatersewer@hopedale-ma.gov

RE: Grafton Upton Railroad proposal to develop West Street property

Dear Mr. Burt,

I am writing on behalf of the Metacomet Board of Directors in response to your concerns regarding the Grafton Upton Railroad's proposal to purchase and develop the West Street Chapter 61 property in Hopedale. As you know, the Hopedale Board of Selectmen have the option to exercise the town's right of first refusal to meet the purchase price of the property and to acquire it for the town.

We recognize the many conservation values of this land for drinking water protection, habitat for species of special concern, prime forest land with prime farm soils and in a regional context as a wildlife corridor to nearby open spaces in Milford, Hopedale, Upton and Mendon.

If the Board of Selectmen choose to pursue ownership of the property, Metacomet Land Trust would be interested in discussing how the organization could assist Hopedale in preserving and protecting this property for the benefit of the community. This includes but is not limited to: communicating with State agencies and other conservation groups, partnering to seek out grants and other funding sources including both public and private funds, and discussion and execution of conservation restrictions and other legal preservation methods. Our Board would be happy to discuss this matter further with you and any other town officials who are interested.

Thank you and we hope to hear from you soon.

In conservation,



Lisa Mosczynski
President

CC: Hopedale Board of Selectmen
Diana Schindler, Hopedale Administrator

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