

Sample

CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

I, _____, East Main Street, Anywhere, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, being the sole owner, for my successors and assigns ("Grantor"), acting pursuant to Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, hereby grant to XXX, and its permitted successors and assigns ("Grantee"), for (state the consideration), in perpetuity and exclusively for conservation purposes, the following Conservation Restriction on a parcel of land located in the Town of _____, Massachusetts constituting approximately ___ acres ("Premises"), and more particularly described in Exhibit A and attached plan/sketch plan. For Grantor's title see _____ County Registry of Deeds Book _____, page _____.

I. PURPOSES:

This Conservation Restriction is defined in and authorized by Sections 31-33 of Chapter 184 of the General Laws and otherwise by law. The purpose of this Conservation Restriction is to assure that the Premises will be maintained in its current condition in perpetuity and for conservation purposes, predominantly in a natural, scenic and undeveloped condition, and to prevent any use or change that would materially impair or interfere with its conservation and preservation values. These values include the following: (Expand)

II. PROHIBITED ACTS AND USES, EXCEPTIONS THERETO, AND PERMITTED USES

A. Prohibited Acts and Uses

Subject to the exceptions set forth herein, the Grantor will not perform or permit the following acts and uses which are prohibited on, above, and below the Premises:

(1) Constructing, placing or allowing to remain any temporary or permanent building, tennis court, landing strip, mobile home, swimming pool, asphalt or concrete pavement, sign, fence, billboard or other advertising display, antenna, utility pole, tower, conduit, line or other temporary or permanent structure or facility on, above or under the Premises;

(2) Mining, excavating, dredging or removing from the Premises of soil, loam, peat, gravel, sand, rock or other mineral resource or natural deposit or otherwise make topographical changes to the area;

(3) Placing, filling, storing or dumping on the Premises of soil, refuse, trash, vehicle bodies or parts, rubbish, debris, junk, waste or other substance or material whatsoever or the installation of underground storage tanks;

(4) Cutting, removing or otherwise destroying trees, grasses or other vegetation;

(3) Non-native or nuisance species. The removal of non-native or invasive species, the interplanting of native species, and the control of species in a manner that minimizes damage to surrounding, non-target species and preserves water quality.

(4) Composting. The stockpiling and composting of stumps, trees and brush limbs and similar biodegradable materials originating on the Premises, provided that such stockpiling and composting is in locations where the presence of such activities will not have a deleterious impact on the purposes (including scenic values) of this Restriction;

(5) Wildlife Habitat Improvement. With the prior written permission of Grantee, measures designed to restore native biotic communities, or to maintain, enhance or restore wildlife, wildlife habitat, or rare or endangered species including selective planting of native trees, shrubs and plant species;

(6) Archaeological Investigations. The conduct of archaeological activities, including without limitation survey, excavation and artifact retrieval, following submission of an archaeological field investigation plan and its approval in writing by Grantee and the State Archaeologist of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (or appropriate successor official);

(7) Trails. The marking, clearing and maintenance of footpaths and the periodic. Trails are to be not wider than ____ feet;

(8) Signs. The erection, maintenance and replacement of signs with respect to hunting, trespass, trail access, identity and address of the occupants, sale of the Premises, the Grantee's interest in the Premises, and the protected conservation values; and,

(9) Permits. The exercise of any right reserved by Grantor under this Paragraph B shall be in compliance with zoning, the Wetlands Protection Act, and all other applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, and permits. The inclusion of any reserved right requiring a permit from a public agency does not imply that the Grantee or the Commonwealth takes any position whether such permit should be issued.

C. Notice and Approval.

Whenever notice to or approval by Grantee is required under the provisions of paragraphs A or B, Grantor shall notify Grantee in writing not less than 60 days prior to the date Grantor intends to undertake the activity in question. The notice shall describe the nature, scope, design, location, timetable and any other material aspect of the proposed activity in sufficient detail to permit the Grantee to make an informed judgment as to its consistency with the purposes of this Conservation Restriction. Where Grantee's approval is required, Grantee shall grant or withhold approval in writing within 60 days of receipt of Grantor's request. Grantee's approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, but shall only be granted upon a showing that the proposed activity shall not materially impair the purposes of this Conservation Restriction. Failure of Grantee to respond in writing within 60 days shall be deemed to constitute approval by Grantee of the request as submitted, so long as the request sets forth the provisions of this section relating to deemed approval after 60 days in the notice.

said violation, the right to enter the Premises for the purpose of taking any and all actions with respect to the Premises as may be necessary or appropriate to remedy or abate any violation hereof, including but not limited to the right to perform a survey of boundary lines.

V. EXTINGUISHMENT

A. If circumstances arise in the future such as render the purpose of this Conservation Restriction impossible to accomplish, this restriction can only be terminated or extinguished, whether in whole or in part, by a court of competent jurisdiction under applicable law. If any change in conditions ever gives rise to extinguishment or other release of the Conservation Restriction under applicable law, then Grantee, on a subsequent sale, exchange, or involuntary conversion of the Premises, shall be entitled to a portion of the proceeds in accordance with paragraph B below, subject, however, to any applicable law which expressly provides for a different disposition of the proceeds. Grantee shall use its share of the proceeds in a manner consistent with the conservation purpose set forth herein.

B. Proceeds.

Grantor and Grantee agree that the donation of this Conservation Restriction gives rise to a real property right, immediately vested in the Grantee, with a fair market value that is at least equal to the proportionate value that this Conservation Restriction, determined at the time of the gift, bears to the value of the unrestricted property at that time. Such proportionate value of the Grantee's property right shall remain constant.

C. Grantor/Grantee Cooperation Regarding Public Action

Whenever all or any part of the Premises or any interest therein is taken by public authority under power of eminent domain or other act of public authority, then the Grantor and the Grantee shall cooperate in recovering the full value of all direct and consequential damages resulting from such action. All related expenses incurred by the Grantor and the Grantee shall first be paid out of any recovered proceeds, and the remaining proceeds shall be distributed between the Grantor and Grantee in shares equal to such proportionate value. If a less than fee interest is taken, the proceeds shall be equitably allocated according to the nature of the interest taken. The Grantee shall use its share of the proceeds like a continuing trust in a manner consistent with the conservation purposes of this grant.

VI. ASSIGNABILITY

A. Running of the Burden

The burdens of this Conservation Restriction shall run with the Premises in perpetuity, and shall be enforceable against the Grantor and the successors and assigns of the Grantor holding any interest in the Premises.

X. AMENDMENT

If circumstances arise under which an amendment to or modification of this Conservation Restriction would be appropriate, Grantor and Grantee may jointly amend this Conservation Restriction; provided that no amendment shall be allowed that will affect the qualification of this Conservation Restriction or the status of Grantee under any applicable laws, including Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or Sections 31-33 of Chapter 184 of the General laws of Massachusetts. Any amendments to this conservation restriction shall occur only in exceptional circumstances. The Holder will consider amendments only to correct an error or oversight, to clarify an ambiguity, or where there is a net gain in conservation value. All expenses of all parties in considering and/or implementing an amendment shall be borne by the persons or entity seeking the amendment. Any amendment shall be consistent with the purposes of this Conservation Restriction, shall not affect its perpetual duration, shall be approved by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and if applicable, shall comply with the provisions of Art. 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, and any gifts, grants or funding requirements. Any amendment shall be recorded in the _____ Registry of Deeds.

XI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Conservation Restriction shall be effective when the Grantor and the Grantee have executed it, the administrative Approvals required by Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the General Laws have been obtained, and it has been recorded in the _____ Registry of Deeds. The Grantee shall record this instrument in timely manner in the _____ Registry of Deeds.

XII. NOTICES

Any notice, demand, request, consent, approval or communication that either party desires or is required to give to the other shall be in writing and either served personally or sent by first class mail, postage pre-paid, addressed as follows:

To Grantor:

To Grantee:

or to such other address as any of the above parties shall designate from time to time by written notice to the other or that is reasonably ascertainable by the parties.

XIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Controlling Law

The interpretation and performance of this Conservation Restriction shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

B. Liberal Construction

Any general rule of construction to the contrary notwithstanding, this Conservation Restriction shall be liberally construed in favor of the grant to effect the purpose of this Conservation Restriction

ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT

The above Conservation Restriction was accepted by _____
this _____ day of , 20__.

By: _____
Its: _____, duly authorized
(INSERT NOTARIZATION)

APPROVAL OF SELECT BOARD

We, the undersigned, being a majority of the Select Board of the Town of _____,
hereby certify that at a meeting duly held on _____, 20__, the Select Board voted to
approve the foregoing Conservation Restriction to the _____ pursuant to Section 32 of
Chapter 184 of the General Laws of Massachusetts.
Select Board

(INSERT NOTARIZATION)

APPROVAL BY SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

The undersigned, Secretary of Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereby certifies that the foregoing Conservation Restriction to
the Town of _____ has been approved in the public interest pursuant to Massachusetts
General Laws, Chapter 184, Section 32.

Dated: _____, 20_____

Ian A. Bowles
Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs
(INSERT NOTARIZATION)

(Sample) Subordination of Mortgage

I/we, _____, Present holder(s) of a mortgage on property located at _____ Massachusetts ("Premises") from _____ to _____ dated _____ and recorded with _____ Registry of Deeds in Book _____, Page _____, hereby approve of, and subordinate the Mortgage and the obligations secured thereby to the Conservation Restriction covering all/a portion of the Premises to be recorded, to the same extent as if the Conservation Restriction had been executed and recorded before the execution and recording of the Mortgage.

In Witness Whereof, the said _____ has caused its corporate seal to be hereto affixed and these presents to be signed in its name and behalf by _____ its _____ this _____ day of _____, 20__.

by:

_____, 20____

[Attach acknowledgement certificate/notarization here]