

The David Damon Memorial Preserve

This 37.7 acre Damon family owned “tree farm” as they called it on Clapp road was accumulated by Jackie and Roger Damon, the grandparents of David Damon. David, at the age of 10, tragically died in a bicycle accident on Clapp Road in 1981. Roger and Jackie wanted to do something in memory of their grandson so they decided to try to add parcels of land to some that the family already owned on Clapp Road. As “townies” who came from 12 generations of Scituate people, they knew the old families and were able to identify parcels and their owners, many of which were listed as “owners unknown”. They eventually put together trades and purchases to add to the ones they already held ultimately winding up with 6 adjacent parcels totaling 37.7 acres. (See plan from BSC dated March 9, 1983 attached to the P&S)

Those of us who knew Roger knew of his spiritual affiliation as a “Nuthitarian”. His son Bill recently told me that as young adults he and his sister spent many Sundays on this property as a family in what their father called his very own “Cathedral in the Pines”. They picnicked and harvested pine trees which eventually were milled for pine paneling for their home on Clapp Road. It is memories like these and the desire to carry out their parents’ wishes that has brought this family to preservation of this property instead of development.

As you will see in the report from Morse Engineering, this acreage is developable. With 2 entrances onto Clapp Road, a road could easily be looped around through the property to accommodate house lots. Greg Morse has witnessed 6 successful perks done on various parts of the property. (See attached report from Morse Engineering)

This acreage is wooded but fairly open due to the fact that it has been logged every 10 years as was necessary to fulfill the state requirement for Chapter 61A Tree Farm status. There are several ancient cart paths that are still open and will provide many ready

made walking trails. One of these ancient cart paths runs between the Conservation Way and the Booth Hill areas and would still be usable if not for houses at the street edges. You will see from the maps that this land is near the Crosbie preserve but is separated by a northeastern section of the South Swamp. There is an ancient cart path through the Swamp accessible in the Winter and dry spells in the Summer between the Crosbie and the Damon lands. This makes for an interesting walk and connection between these 2 properties. I have walked this Swamp Trail with Connie Beal (Crosbie Family Preserve) and found it fascinating. (See Danena Environmental Study and Ivas South Swamp Protection Through Conservation map attached)

The elevation at the Clapp Road boundary is higher than the swamp so surface water from this acreage flows 2 ways, into the South Swamp and into a tributary of First Herring Brook, indicating the preservation of this land is important in the town's efforts in the protection of our water resources. Water Resource Protection is a major goal outlined in the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Southeast corner of this property is shown in the Zone C DEP Approved Surface Water Protection area and the delineated Water Resource Protection District. (See WRP map attached).

This parcel is identified on the Scituate Open Space and Recreation 2009 Plan (OSRP) as a priority open space parcel and recommended for preservation. Acquisition of it will continue to enlarge the West End greenbelt and follow the goals outlined in the OSRP. "Conserving aquifer areas, maintaining Scituate's legacy of distinct rural beauty, essential recreation land and vital biological diversity through permanent preservation of protected open land" as well as "closing gaps between fragmented wild life corridors" are some of the goals set forth in the OSRP. The West End greenbelt runs between Route 3A at the Town Forest area West through the West End along Clapp Road to Wompatuck State Park. The Damon parcel is most likely the last large piece

remaining to be preserved in this unique West End conservation area.

The applicant proposes that Maxwell Conservation Trust hold the Conservation Restriction required by the CPA law to protect the public monetary investment in this open space parcel.

The funding amount of this proposal is based on 37.7 acres at \$20,000 per acre. Included in this proposal is \$5,000 for reimbursement of legal fees to Maxwell Land Trust and \$25,000 for construction of a small parking area near the #63 Clapp Road entrance.