

ASSOCIATION OF GREAT NECK, INC.



P.O. Box 130
Ipswich, MA 01938
associationofgreatneck.org

November 2019

RE: Proprietors of Great Neck Land – Please Reply

Dear Great Neck Resident,

Over 30 years ago, the Association of Great Neck (AGN) accepted a proposal by the Proprietors of Great Neck (PGN) for the preservation of Clark Beach and Clark Pond. Through these efforts and the Proprietors' generosity, today we, ~500 households, enjoy daily this scenic, recreational, and wildlife area.

In 2007 the Town of Ipswich in partnership with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, with support from The Trustees of Reservations and Essex County Greenbelt, grew the green space on Great Neck when it purchased an unprotected, privately-owned coastal property from the PGN. This property, known as the Great Neck Conservation Area (GNCA), contains diverse ecosystems including forests, wetlands, and fields, and is particularly important habitat providing food, water, and shelter for many breeding and migratory birds, such as a summer home to hundreds of beautiful white egrets.

Today the PGN still own one property, ~50 acres, on Great Neck adjacent to the GNCA with frontage on Clark, Plover Hill, and Skytop Roads. This land is under a lease agreement with the Federal Government. If this property is protected as open space, a corridor or greenbelt spanning from the Ipswich River to Plum Island Sound is created; the diversity of ecosystems that support an abundance of plants and wildlife are protected; the productivity and abundance of marine ecosystems in Plum Island Sound are sustained; a scenic trail network for recreational activities is developed; and the character of Great Neck is preserved.

We write today asking for your support in preserving the remaining 50-acre property as open space, although we cannot say when/if the land will become available. We believe, however, demonstrating to the Proprietors that the vast majority of Great Neck residents are strongly in favor of conserving the property would have a positive influence on their decision on the future use of the land.

As a first step, please indicate your level of support for the PGN land (please circle only one):

(1) YES-support as open space

(2) NO-not support as open space

(3) MAYBE-need more information

_____ signature

Sign this letter and return it to AGN, PO Box 130, Ipswich, MA 01938; or email your response to us at info@associationofgreatneck.org. Next month, we will be canvassing the neighborhood to further explain the project and to answer any questions you may have.

We are aware this is a complex venture, which could include multiple entities working together to fund a conservation purchase, much like the acquisition of the GNCA. However, we feel now is the time to start the discussion at the grassroots level.

Sincerely,

Don Finocchio, Jim Prato & Cricket Wilbur

AGN Land Acquisition Committee

AGN is a non-profit (501C(3)) community land trust, which supports social, recreational, educational, and civic activities for Great Neck residents and the protection of natural resources for the public.