

The Waltham Land Trust sent the following questions to all Mayoral and City Council candidates who provided an email address to the Waltham City Clerk's office. Below are the answers we received.

1. How would you assess how the city has managed and maintained open space? What plans do you have in mind to improve this work?

Mayoral Candidates

Melissa Downes: I have been talking with voters at public events as well as going door to door. Recurring themes shared with me include developments' impact on traffic and wanting to slow down or stop new development. My personal concern for the Stigmatine property is how removing shale at the top of the hill is expected to impact the wetlands on site. Then there is the Fernald property which was purchased 5 years ago but planning is not final.

As you know there are elected officials that value open spaces as much as we do. My development planning points under question 2 is a starting point for the broader discussion which would incorporate open spaces. The city has many detailed plans that focus on the past and current states as standalone issues – Transportation, Open Spaces and Municipal Vulnerability – but there is no overall holistic vision to communicate to the residents an integrated goal.

To drill down on open spaces, it is not sufficient to buy and hold the land. Good stewardship involves active management to ensure the purpose of the purchase is achieved while keeping the area habitable for nature. The vitality of the open space is related to our road and building development as is our ability to create corridors of nature for animals to meet their habitat needs. I would advocate for improvements that paint a clear picture of needs at the city level. Potential examples include:

Scientific assessment of the health of our water systems – vernal pools to wetlands to rivers. This information would help with water quality and action plans to mitigate flooding.

Arborist assessment of the woodlands and determine a plan to keep the tree stands healthy. Why not have natural science classes include an outdoor lab day for high school students to learn how to do a plot survey for tree density, age and variety?

Use the Land Trust's list of properties to be incorporated into the cities other master plans.

Diane LeBlanc: Waltham has wonderful open spaces that are extraordinary City assets. Waltham has been extremely effective in acquiring open space and recreational land but its efforts beyond acquisition are lacking. Much of the work on these open spaces has been

done by the Waltham Land Trust in developing the Western Greenway and other trails and through the stewards that serve Prospect Hill Park, the Riverwalk and the City's many trails.

Here's are some of the additional steps that must be taken: (For more information, see my open space statement on dianeblancformayor.com)

Protection of the property. CPA acquired properties must have legally mandated restrictions. Other properties should also have permanent protective restrictions placed upon them as being zoned as conservation/recreation land is subject to change.

Master plan for Prospect Hill Park to maintain the roads and trails, provide more access and to manage the vegetation and animal life.

Master plan for the Fernald's open space.

Hiring a park ranger and a sustainability manager. These positions in the budget, but the hiring process is not yet complete.

Jeannette McCarthy: Physical Observation. Finally, after several requests and years, the City Council approved a professional park ranger position. This will provide a person dedicated to surveying all open space parcels for master planning, needs assessment and use. Additionally, we are working with the state DCR to bring a mounted patrol unit to Waltham during the summer months. This unit will provide patrol, safety, education and enjoyment of city and state open space parcels. The Recreation Board should have supervision and staffing as it did in past.

Ward 1

David Gately: I support obtaining, maintaining, and protecting Waltham's open space. The City of Waltham has to do a better job of managing open space and I intend to make that a priority. A plan for Prospect Hill Park should include a dedicated funding mechanism that earmarks funds for the Park. That will greatly assist in maintaining Prospect Hill Park in the future and will enable positive planning.

Elizabeth Gelles: As a neighbor of Prospect Hill Park for 25 years, I have watched that space ebb and flow in terms of its management by the City. I think that in later years there have been some improvements, such as increased management of the trails and paved roads that has reduced erosion. As for other open spaces in Waltham, I am not as familiar with them and so cannot speak about their maintenance.

I am not able to provide specific plans since this is no area of expertise for me. As a new candidate and new to the political arena in our wonderful city, I have, from necessity, had to spend much of my time getting up to speed on so many issues before the City Government and canvassing that, unfortunately, maintenance of green spaces is still on my

agenda for reading and learning. I fully support the work of those organizations in the city that are focused on keeping our City's Eco-systems functioning and our green spaces and environment strong and viable.

Ward 2

Caren Dunn: The burden of maintenance of the trails in particular seems to fall to the Land Trust and trail stewards vs. the city. The city will not or cannot provide trash bins on or near the trails due to lack of manpower to collect the trash that may accumulate. There is room for improvement here.

Anytime there is a significant impediment to a trail (a downed tree, for example) trail stewards quickly assemble, make a plan, bring the tools and the manpower, and get it done.

That's OK- as the all-volunteer team has demonstrated a vested interest in preserving the land for its highest and best usage. I believe the team would enthusiastically assist with ANY open space that was preserved, not just the trails, as long as there is the understanding that if development must proceed on open space parcels, it should be permitted only after alternatives for re-use have been proven unfeasible and an open space parcel of comparable size and conservation value is protected in perpetuity.

I don't believe there is a sustained commitment from the City of Waltham to preserve open space according to those values; so therefore, we have a long way to go. Re-establishment of a city council sub-committee for open space protection and planning should be considered.

Bill Hanley: Waltham has done well on the acquisition of open space, but is falling short in maintaining, planning and protecting. Waltham is overdeveloped, and I am of the opinion that every opportunity for the City to purchase open space be explored at a bare minimum. We have more people and cars than our infrastructure can handle. Many don't like to say it, but Waltham is a congested and thickly settled city, and more consideration is needed to link and access our green spaces. Our park maintenance team falls under the CPW. I want to see a complete parks department with properly equipped staff and dedicated resources to manage and protect both our passive recreation areas, parks and playing fields. For several budget cycles, the position of Park Ranger has been debated by our City Council and has gone unfunded. This position is needed immediately and will go a long way in protecting and managing use of the Fernald land, former Met State Hospital land, Prospect Hill, and our neighborhood parks. I am a strong proponent of the concept of "playborhood" for use in our open spaces. This aims to get people outdoors for unorganized free play to increase socializing, build community and promote healthy living. Waltham has the space for this in each neighborhood and with our larger green spaces. Specific to Ward 2, Hardy Pond goes underutilized and must remain protected. I would like to see pop-up canoe and kayak rentals at Hardy Pond during the warm-weather months for use by summer camps

and residents, supervised ice-skating during winter, and the return of “park instructors.” The more awareness of this gem of Ward 2, the easier it will be to protect it from returning to the Hardy Pond of my childhood.

Heather May: Waltham is unique in the amount of open space it has given its proximity to the Urban center of Boston. This resource is not something we should take for granted! I believe our open space should be valued highly and treated with care and intention. I believe that in recent years Waltham has allowed the slow chipping away of, and selling off of, our open space. This needs to stop. Once open space is gone – it's gone – rarely does developed land revert back to open space in a city. As stewards of the earth, it's our moral duty to protect it. We have set aside several parcels of land as conservation land or open space, but the legal process to keep those lands protected has not been finished. I would immediately push for those conservation land protections to be exercised to their fullest extent.

Ward 3

George Darcy: For full disclosure I am on the board of the Waltham Land Trust.

This year Mayor McCarthy resubmitted the Park Ranger position as part of her 2020 budget. This position was finally approved by the City Council. Over the past decade the City has invested millions of dollars in acquiring many of the large remaining open spaces. Recent acquisitions have included the following:

- 6 acre Wellington farmland
- 25.5 Coleman/Stanton land
- 50 acre Metropolitan State Hospital land
- 7 acre Jericho Hill
- 33 acre Shady's Pond parcel
- 26 acre Sanderson Heights
- 7 acre Lot 1 / Bow Street Pond
- 196 acre Fernald parcel

We need the Park Ranger position to help manage and maintain these parcels of land for all to enjoy.

Ward 6

Sean Durkee: There is always room for improvement especially with the gift of hindsight. But we as a city can do much better. One of the more recently available financial mechanisms the city has to preserve open space is the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. People forget that for the first couple of years of existence in our city, Waltham received 100% matching CPA funds. Although the matching rate is 11.57% for FY20, it's

still more money for the city it would not have had otherwise. I support the CPA in Waltham and will work with the Land Trust on open space/ recreation issues.

Ward 7

Kristine Mackin: In my current term, I was glad to support funding of a park ranger position to help improve how our city manages our open spaces. Within Ward 7, we have a number of parcels that need to be protected from development; many are in close proximity to seasonal or perennial waterways, including undeveloped land along Sibley Road and Keach Terrace, or are sited on granite slabs, where construction would contribute to runoff and erosion of nearby soil. The city should pursue ways to permanently protect these parcels, through invoking the ability of our Conservation Commission to protect waterways, through zoning changes that govern subdivision of buildable lots, and possibly by purchasing certain parcels to permanently protect them. These steps will help improve and expand our ability to preserve and protect these undeveloped areas.

Ward 9

Donald Desrochers: In the last twenty years, the city has acquired a vast amount of open space that should be a source of pride for us all. We have protected well-over a thousand acres of open space, established a greenway that connects large parcels of land across the north side of Waltham, and taken steps to restore sensitive ecosystems citywide. Without the Land Trust, of which my wife and I are members, none of this would have been possible. Managing and maintaining open space—while continuing to secure more land for preservation—is the next logical extension of that work, and the city can take concrete steps to make improvements.

One of my top priorities would be to ensure that the council moves to find and allocate a space for a park ranger, which the city has been required to provide for some time. The city should also proactively apply for the millions of dollars in grants available from the state and other groups in order to maintain land. The city's Community Preservation Commission needs to finalize open-space purchases, like the Fernald, in accordance with state law. Prospect Hill needs long-term maintenance and stewardship. The completion of the rail trail needs to be expedited. To do so, the city needs a coordinated approach to managing and maintaining open space, which should be centralized and formalized through our city's planning department, with input and guidance from stakeholders including the Conservation Commission and the Tree Warden, as well as constituents and community groups like the Land Trust. I would work to ensure this kind of formalization and that the outcomes needed and described above become the evidence for evaluating the success of our efforts.

As a candidate for council to represent the most urbanized ward in the city, I also want to emphasize the need for increased focus on open space and greening of the South Side. Land Trust members know well the benefits of a greener landscape for health and wellness. There are many small things that could be done to improve the treescape and open spaces of the South Side, which need support from organizations like the Land Trust, and I intend to initiate and facilitate the conversations that are needed to make it happen.

Robert Logan: During my tenure on the City Council the City of Waltham has acquired numerous parcels for preservation as open space totaling over 389 acres of land. I supported every one of those acquisitions. I led the effort to acquire a portion of an abandoned railroad line and turn it into Chemistry Station Park. This property, surrounded by residences, was slated to become a storage yard for construction equipment. Instead, it is now an oasis of green in the middle of the neighborhood. I have been working to acquire the vacant riverfront property at 67 Crescent Street, a property that is cited four (4) times in the City of Waltham Master Plan as an important target for acquisition for open space and increased public access to the Charles River. I support creation of the Mass Central Rail Trail and voted for the purchase of the Arrigo Farm. I authored a Resolution calling on the City to negotiate a conservation restriction on the Stigmatine's Property before it was taken for the new high school. I have supported the acquisition of additional open space at every opportunity, and will continue to do so.

I believe, in some areas, we could improve our management and maintenance of our open spaces. I support Waltham's Open Space & Recreation Plan which states that we need to have collaboration across City Departments and clear communication between them to have successful stewardship of Waltham's open space and recreation lands. I recently vote to create the position of Park Ranger. In addition, I support a forestry management plan with specific actions to maintain the trees of our open space in order to ensure that they will be there for future generations. The City should also provide, on an ongoing basis, the funding needed to sustain our existing open space and the open space that we will acquire in the future.

Jonathan Paz: My assessment of our situation is informed by both the current quality of life of Waltham residents and impending climate change.

With regards to the former, surveys by the Planning Department indicate that half of respondents a) do not believe there is enough outdoor recreational space and b) do not believe there is enough green space in the city. With demand for recreational facilities evolving, it is clear that, at a minimum, we need to preserve all existing open spaces. I am encouraged by the results of the Community Development Block Grant Survey. In 2017, most respondents found "improvements to existing parks and neighborhood facilities" a high priority funding area amongst 12 other categories. Ward 9 is a shining example of this desire and need; Gilmore Playground has become the epicenter of family life.

In order to improve this work, I look forward to working with the Community Preservation Committee to ensure outdoor recreation spaces are preserved and maintained. Also, I hope to expand awareness of the Planning Department's online community portal. Community input is pivotal to the longevity of this work. Lastly, I hope to expand collaboration across Local, State and Federal Agencies. In the long-term, we need to hire a Sustainability Director for the city. In order to have green and renewable developments and improvements, we need a local expert that can coordinate, advise, propose innovative ideas, and evaluate the environmental impact of the city. This includes applying for federal grants and ensuring we reach our Green Communities targets.

At Large

Colleen Bradley-MacArthur: In the 11 years I've lived in Waltham I would say the city has done a fair job maintaining open space, but has not done a great job managing open space. The work of the Waltham Land Trust over the last 20 years has been exceptional in terms of managing, maintaining, and protecting open space in Waltham. They have built key partnerships with conservation organizations in the city and state to keep open space in Waltham vibrant and accessible to the community. Given the negative trends in land development overall in Massachusetts, we still have work to do.

One area of both concern and opportunity is the Fernald property. The City of Waltham purchased the 190+ acre Fernald Center in December 2014 for \$3.7 million and it is unacceptable that nearly five years later there is seemingly no leadership regarding what the next steps should be in utilizing this property. I've had the opportunity to tour a portion of this property with the Waltham Land Trust and it is frustrating that little has been done by the city. This issue is part of why I decided to run for office. City leaders need to start the process of an environmental assessment, preservation of key structures on the property, and fully engage the citizens of Waltham in the future of this property. Nearly 200 acres of land in an urban area is the envy of many communities in Greater Boston.

Waltham needs a master plan that factors in complex and inter-related issues – such as open space, development, transportation, traffic, a new high school, and responsible housing development. This has been done in other municipalities in Massachusetts through open and transparent communication with the community. We should be utilizing the expertise of groups such as the Waltham Land Trust to continue coalition-building to protect Waltham's open space. There are also resources and models from the Massachusetts Audubon Society such as their "Shaping the Future of Your Community" program and the state Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs program "Smart Growth".

We should also continue to promote the open space we have through recreation (as the Land Trust has done) and engage the student population in Waltham so they can understand and feel invested in protecting the land outside their own door. This will

encourage the entire community to be good stewards of the land and learn about the risks and downsides to losing open space to development.

We must continue to highlight the importance of completing the 23-mile section of the Wayside Rail Trail. This section of trail between Waltham and Berlin is listed as the third-highest priority in the Bay State Greenway's top 100 bike path project priority list.

Another way we can preserve and restore existing land is through a tree inventory. The City of Salem recently completed a city-wide tree inventory and the work was made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant program. They were able to start to utilize this data to budget and plan for things such as the maintenance of existing trees and stump removals, and prioritize and budget for future tree plantings. I'd like to see continued collaboration with Waltham's Tree Warden, Kevin Thompson and tap into his expertise and vision.

Randy LeBlanc: I think the city has done a wonderful job acquiring open space, and now, I would like to see this open space further utilized & accessible to more residents. I feel with the addition of the park ranger & sustainability manager combined with western greenway plus the construction of the rail trail, with some hard work Most of this can be achieved.

Kathleen McMenimen: I have served Waltham since 1976 as a Councillor. During that time, over the past 40 years, the citizens of Waltham and City have acquired or preserved more than 1000 acres of open space ranging from the 200 acre-parcel of the Fernald Development center, to the 12 acres known as "Waltham Woods" (which I championed through the Council process).

I am most supportive of acquisition, retention, management and maintenance of land preservation in our City and will continue to work to provide a formidable balance toward others who would choose to do otherwise! The membership of the Waltham Land Trust has proved to be a tremendously supportive and effective advocacy group in this endeavor.

In the WLT position regarding development in Waltham, previous developments are referenced. I supported the repurposing of the Murphy Army Hospital land for our compatible use by the City of Waltham; Bentley College; and Gann Academy (recreation and educational purposes). The DeVincent Farm sale was a private transaction. I supported the preservation of the 33 acres behind Our Lady's Church (Shady's Pond and Western Greenway open space) and worked to prevent the 40B Indian Ridge Housing (Sunrise Development) on Lexington St. I was only one of two "NO" votes against the re-use of the Olympus Hospital (formerly Middlesex County Hospital) intensity of use. I am unable to comment on the Fernald Campus because of "conflict of interest" status!

I have, and will continue to support the completion of the City's responsibility/contributions to the Waltham portions of the Rail Trail. For the past 20

years, I have openly advocated for and supported the rejuvenation of ALL of the City of Waltham's existing "pocket parks": including Chemistry Park, Lowell Field, Gilmore, Drake, Graverson, Turner, Logan, Sumner, Cedarwood, Hillcroft, Koutoujian, Lazzazzero, Falzone, Connors, Nipper Maher, McKenna, McDonald, Msgr. McCabe and soon to be Cornelia Warren @Waverley Oaks Rd. and Thompson Playground @ Charles St. I have consistently supported all renovation/rejuvenation/replenishing of the crown jewel of recreation in our City, Prospect Hill Park (300 acres). Hardy Pond and the Charles River have received my consistent support for the public and private entities that seek to maintain and improve the quality of the eco-systems for both locations.

I voted for the concept/funding for a Park Ranger position in our City most recently.

I voted for the acquisition of the Arrigo Farm (4 acres) to be restored as a working farm. I've supported Councillor George Darcy's Resolution for the restoration of the Wellington Farm on Trapelo Road. I voted for the acquisition of Lot 1 (Bow St. Pond), and voted for the acquisition of the Coleman-Stanton Property on Lexington St. for open space. I voted for the Jericho Hill land (7 acres) and Sanderson Heights (25 acres) on Lexington/Lincoln Streets. I voted for the 50 acre acquisition of the Waltham portion of the Metropolitan State Hospital, in addition to supporting the tri-community effort of Belmont/Lexington/Waltham preservation of 300+ acres of open space in perpetuity.

Patrick O'Brien: The City of Waltham has made great progress acquiring, preserving and protecting open space over the past twenty years. I grew up in Waltham in the 1970s and 1980s playing in the woods at Prospect Hill, Bear Hill, the open land near the YMCA on Lexington street and the abandoned rail road tracks which will soon be the Wayside Trail. Many apartments and condos were approved and built in Waltham during this time. Five years ago, I was proud to vote to acquire the Fernald land (196 acres) to protect it from development. In the early 2000s, the Ridge (formerly Indian Ridge) was developed. The City of Waltham has known since that time, that we are vulnerable to the Chapter 40B law which allows developers to bypass local zoning requirements since we do not have the required 10% "affordable housing." The city needs to figure out a way to achieve this requirement, otherwise we will continue to be vulnerable to these developments. I look forward to more work being done to preserve, protect and renew Prospect Hill as well.

Thomas Stanley: The City of Waltham has made great strides in preserving open space over the last 15 years and I am proud to have been a part of it. This would not have occurred without the guidance and leadership of the Waltham Land Trust (WLT).

Unfortunately, the municipal effort to manage and maintain public open spaces has not matched the effort to preserve these spaces. While we have seen improvements (which I supported), such as the installation of rest rooms at Prospect Hill Park and funding for the design to restore Fernald wetlands, much more can and should be done to maintain these precious resources.

To help the City move forward with managing open space, I supported the creation and funding of our new full time park ranger position. Now it is time to expand this effort to include additional full or part-time positions to care for our public forested land and open space.

Any sale of limited Fernald land for less intrusive purposes should include dedicating proceeds to environmental cleanup, maintenance and expanding our park ranger positions.

Additionally, state grants are available to help maintain and improve our open space. Waltham should actively seek this funding.

Carlos Vidal: The city has done a good job managing the open space we have however there are always ways to improve the way it is managed so we can maximize the use of the space by all Waltham residents.

The way we can improve this is by a close collaboration between other local and state organizations to increase awareness of the space and how it could be used to and enjoyed by all.

2. Should Waltham Land Trust's position on development (available at walthamlandtrust.org) guide the management of city-owned property?

Mayoral

Melissa Downes: As always WLT's positions are well considered utilizing your memberships' expertise and your passion for our ecosystems' health and accessible recreational spaces. We know the basics for species to thrive are shelter for offspring, available food and water and the community of animals and plants for a particular ecosystem. Like elected officials before me, if I have the opportunity to serve, I will partner with the Land Trust. I will rely on your knowledge acquired over 20 years to assist Waltham's plans for open spaces in coordination with transportation needs. It is my belief that transportation using Complete Streets will protect the mobility of the city and compliment open spaces to protect air quality.

I share your concern that we prioritize land management where redevelopment is first and land that has always been natural or farmed has rigorous protections in place. I will advocate for development planning as follows:

Direct municipal staff and allocate time to prepare analysis and documentation as the foundation to work with interested parties for community planning. This will include communication plans and establishment of regular public meetings.

Propose to update the 2006 Build-Out Analysis by Waltham's Planning Department and MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council). This will allow the city to evaluate its effectiveness of current zoning and building department policies.

Review the 2005 – 2022 Open Space Plan with the goal of assessing progress and simplify information for the general public. The document is long and information provided is dense, but I found the focus to be on recreational spaces and with less emphasis on habit.

Create new documents that allow us to engage the general public to discuss broad community goals and generate enthusiasm for ideas. The existing documents provide background or foundational data to create effective policy but not needed when building consensus with residents.

Diane LeBlanc: I support the Waltham Land Trust's philosophy for open space and will always prefer redevelopment over the development of open space. Once I assure that permanent protections are placed on our open space parcels, such development will be next to impossible.

Jeanette McCarthy: Yes. My record is clear on acquisition of open space. Approximately 300 acres have been acquired including Berry Park, Fernald School, 287 (Aft) Grove Street, 84 [Aft] Arcadia, 385 Trapelo Road, Sanderson Heights, Lot 1, Our Lady's Land, and Gaebler Hospital land.

Ward 1

David Gately: We must preserve and protect our existing open space. My guiding actions on this topic will rely greatly on the work compiled by the Waltham Land Trust. I commend the research work of the Waltham Land Trust and their advocacy on behalf of protecting our environment and open spaces. As a parent, homeowner, and resident of our community, I am grateful for WLT's existence. The WLT guide for management of city owned property should be embraced by all municipal officials for planning purposes.

Elizabeth Gelles: I don't feel capable of making a blanket statement regarding management of City owned property. I believe that each open space and available land mass must be assessed on a case by case basis. My understanding, from the information that you have provided here, is that the WLT is fully committed to keeping as much development as possible from taking place on previously undeveloped City land. Without intimate knowledge of such matters as, for instance, any plans that are currently in discussion regarding the need/development for new affordable housing, and other essential services that the city has to provide, it's not possible for me to speak on behalf of the current city council, but going forward I am willing to meet with your group to learn more, and that will assist me.

Ward 2

Caren Dunn: Yes, 100% yes!

Bill Hanley: Yes. I grew up in a Ward 2 before there was adjacent development at Bishops Forest and Clarks Pond, before The Ridge. Ward 2's open space inventory is dwindling. The WLT position point of redeveloping existing parcels and protecting current open spaces should be a rule of thumb. My childhood home was surrounded by constant development at Hobbs Brook, which is now being re-developed. While I'd prefer this area was open space, the current buildings are being torn down and replaced. This is a good option, but the new buildings are planned to be even larger structures. I understand and value the importance of our commercial tax base but encroaching on our neighborhoods is unacceptable.

Heather May: I believe that the Waltham Land Trust's position on development should absolutely be the guide for the management of all property in Waltham. It's simply good, solid stewardship. I don't think the importance of our open spaces can be overstated, certainly not as I sit here and watch the Amazon burn on my TV. While we do need development to keep our tax base healthy and our property taxes affordable, we have many parcels that are already developed, have been abandoned and are in need of redevelopment. These parcels should be the first looked to when new developers approach the city. Beyond that, any developments should be pushed to retain the most open space possible. This includes rethinking the ways in which we require parking spaces to be allocated. We have too many parking lots that sit half empty, this should not be happening, that space should have been kept open or developed as green space.

Ward 3

George Darcy: Waltham Land Trust's position is well stated. Redevelopment is always preferred over developing in existing open spaces.

Ward 6

Sean Durkee: I support the WLT position on development in principle. No one can guarantee there will always be the resources available to do everything that is best or right. People are allowed to build on their own private property. I support completion of the Western Greenway and would like to preserve as much open space as possible for future generations.

Ward 7

Kristine Mackin: I agree with the broad outlines of the WLT position on development, especially that Waltham should avoid breaking up our large parcels of city owned land for development. However, the responsibility of the city council is to balance the needs of everyone in our community, and I believe that each proposal should be considered on its own merits rather than staking out an inflexible position. Environment justice requires us

to consider the entire Waltham community, not just our lands, and in some cases prioritizing development in already dense parcels will contribute to greater pollution from traffic, or increased environmental hazards that can be especially burdensome for low income people. As a consequence, I am committed to considering all of the aspects of our development and making the best decision based on my understanding of the environmental and human impacts. I will continue to pursue other environmental initiatives, including household composting and improving mass transit, to help make Waltham a healthier and more sustainable community.

Ward 9

Donald Desrochers: Taking open space and turning it into developed property is destructive and makes no sense. As the position on development notes, prioritizing green space should be part of every conversation. There are whole areas of the city where reasonable developments can and should accommodate open spaces that will benefit us and future generations. There is no reason why "urban" needs to be thought of as opposite from green landscapes and open spaces. The Land Trust is the city's essential partner in this work.

Robert Logan: I am a member of the Waltham Land Trust and share its goal to preserve as much open space as possible for future generations. I agree that redevelopment of already developed parcels is more beneficial than new development on vacant parcels. In the Downtown I support "smart growth" and "transit-oriented development" as strategies to revitalize old properties while reducing traffic impacts and preventing sprawl. On the Fernald property, I support Councillor Darcy's call for the restoration of the wetlands that were illegally filled-in by the state, and for providing adequate space for that section of the Western Greenway that traverses the property. I look forward to working with the Waltham Land Trust on these and other issues in the future.

Jonathan Paz: Development is a complex issue, especially in a hyper-development economy that has permeated Boston. I appreciate the Waltham Land's Trust position that real estate developers are "attack[ing]" the city and open space is "under siege." In this climate, all open space remaining in Waltham is an achievement. Unfortunately, there are fewer reasons to celebrate each year.

There is an unnecessary tension between our need to grow as a city and our need to accommodate all working families. The Stigmatines site is a perfect example of that. In that situation, the tension was between the priorities of our city against the priorities of outside developers. Court findings showed that Avalon wanted to develop luxury apartments in the Stigmatine fields. The city wanted to prioritize that land for education and for shared prosperity. This tension does not have to exist if we have the right elected leaders in office. Our campaign is for growth that puts our community first.

Putting community first means that we will acquire, restore and repurpose existing land and infrastructure for greater purposes - affordable housing, education and other critical social programs. Preserving and repurposing our aging infrastructure can be mutually beneficial to growing our economy and maintaining our environmental priorities.

At Large

Colleen Bradley-MacArthur: Yes definitely. The Waltham Land Trust's position is well articulated and thoughtful. I am eager to support the vision of the Waltham Land Trust to the best of my ability. In my opening statement above, I address that the city of Waltham is experiencing growing pains due to a lack of long-range and inter-connected master planning process. We are all feeling the strain and unanticipated outcomes of too much development that is a heavy burden on Waltham's already strained infrastructures – our schools, our roads, our environment.

I do not plan to take funding for my campaign from developers or the fossil fuel industry.

I support smart development that includes:

Establishing a closer relationships between city leaders and community groups such as the Waltham Land Trust in the form of a “working group” to keep an open dialogue on these critical issues.

Mirroring the mission of the Waltham Land Trust for the “immediate and long lasting preservation of open space.”

Prompt, efficient, and historically thoughtful preservation and reuse of existing buildings.

The adoption of low impact development that works with nature nature to manage stormwater and decrease the impacts of development

I also support the dialogue with residents and owners of Waltham's remaining open space regarding “mutually beneficial preservation strategies and techniques”. Helping them understand that their legacy will contribute to a healthier city overall.

Randy LeBlanc: Once the open space is gone it's gone. I grew up utilizing all of the open space and Waltham From Skiing Prospect Hill & training for the marathon on the western Greenway To walking our dog at the Paine Estate. And it needs to be preserved. With that said as the southside of Waltham gets converted to high priced condos I think there's an opportunity to add additional fordable housing on existing units before with zoning restrictions before they get converted.

Kathleen McMenimen: I hope my recorded record of votes and support for the varied items listed under the Waltham Land Trust's position on development is clear. However, I cannot and will not prejudge issues and items for which I have no information or detail. As

in the past, I will keep an open mind, gather all the information necessary, and listen to all parties involved, while remaining cognizant of the goals and wishes of the Waltham Land Trust members.

Patrick O'Brien: I support the WLT's position on development. In the early 2000s, I supported "small lot reform" (this is when one house gets torn down and is replaced by two, three or even four houses). Unfortunately, I was in the minority at the time. Now is a good time to take another look at this issue.

Thomas Stanley: To best preserve our natural resources, I believe the WLT position on development of city-owned property should be a guide for city officials.

Any development of the city's open space should only be considered when there are no other options for conflicting municipal priority needs. For example, to protect open space, I publicly supported building the new high school at the current site utilizing the school property parking lot.

Once that effort failed and it became clear to me the Stigmatine property would be privately developed, I made the successful motion to take the property by eminent domain to prevent private housing development and provide a location for the new high school. This action removed pressure on city and school officials to use the undeveloped UMASS Field Station, Storer and Coleman/Stanton land for our new school, all of which I adamantly opposed.

Regarding the Fernald Property, as state representative I authored legislative language which prevented its sale to developers. I then worked closely with the mayor, council, advocates, state and school officials to transfer the property to Waltham and prevent over development of the site.

Since then, I have fought for a comprehensive community reuse process to prevent over-development on that site. This year, I successfully sought Council approval to adopt the Fernald Working Group proposal to hire outside professional consultants to manage the reuse process.

At a minimum, the majority of the land should be preserved for public open space and recreation. Any limited development ought to be for a necessary municipal need or minimal impact means to finance and maintain our open space and recreation. Any reuse decisions must be made with a comprehensive and professional asset and reuse assessment with extensive public involvement and support.

Carlos Vidal: I think, I responded to a similar question 2 years ago and my position has pretty much stayed the same. I don't think it is about guiding how the city manages city-owned property but working together with the city to reach a common goal in which we can balance development while maintaining open space available for all.

3. As the City of Waltham negotiates with UMass to take control of the Waltham Field Station and Lawrence Meadows on Beaver Street, what do you envision as the future for these parcels? What uses would you allow and encourage?

Mayoral

Melissa Downes: The reason for the City of Waltham to own this property is to protect the current uses and not permit additional building. The property, as you know, is used for multiple non-profit groups with missions that are related to connecting residents to the land and nature. As far as the use of the land, I would work to see the continuation of the property for education and farming so that everyone can have a connection to their food and an appreciation of good land stewardship.

One idea I would like to encourage is education and research on invasive species. While invasive species are a constant and evolving threat, it would be valuable to see how changes in weather patterns are enabling new invasive species. We could establish test plots of plants from plant zones outside of New England norms to see if they can survive. This has implications for our local farmers related to new pests, viability of existing crops, and potential for new crops. The test plants could be crops from other regions as well as invasive species. We know some New England crops are already being farmed further from home. Canada is now producing blueberries, because their winters are less harsh and the plants can survive enough winter seasons to be profitable.

As far as the existing buildings, I would have municipal staff assess the buildings' current conditions as the first step to ensure they can continue to provide a comfortable and safe work environment for the occupants. If repairs or upgrades are needed, then that will be incorporated into planning and management of the property. I would recommend we explore the feasibility of using grant money from either Green Communities for energy efficiency or HUD or CPC funds. This is not a promise since all three programs have specific criteria for the building to qualify.

Diane LeBlanc: I support the acquisition of the Waltham Field Station and Lawrence Meadow for farming, including community gardens, and open space. I also support using Community Preservation funds to make the acquisition as such an acquisition protects the property as well as being an excellent use of CPA funds. The Field Station should remain the regional Sustainability Center and will I seek the assistance of our Legislative delegation to fund improvements to the site, including buildings, and will have the Planning Department apply for appropriate grants from Federal and other sources. It is my hope that the University of Massachusetts will be held responsible for cleaning up the environmental hazards at Lawrence Meadow and I will encourage that outcome.

Jeannette McCarthy: Expansion of the farm to include more community farms, educational programs on agriculture, soil testing and entomology analysis for the

public, petting farm, open space and some recreation. The northern side has environmental limitations. Collaborate with Girl Scouts.

Ward 1

David Gately: The Waltham Field Station should be utilized for long term agricultural use. The site should also be used as a center for non-profit organizations. Its use as a farm has been important for the Waltham community and I support that continued use as a priority.

Elizabeth Gelles: As stated in my responses to the Waltham Fields Community Farm questionnaire, I fully support the notion that this land should continue to be used in exactly the way it is currently being used with improvements to the safety of the site and the wellbeing of those that have to work there. I have made my position clear that we should continue to have this gem in our wonderful city. With regards to the wetlands at Lawrence Meadows, I haven't studied this, but I believe that no development can or should take place on this open land.

Ward 2

Caren Dunn: I would look to the WLT and the other organization leaseholders within the Field Station community who work together daily on the property for guidance here. I would advocate for the parcels to be used ecologically for the civic purposes of sustenance and education.

Bill Hanley: This parcel of 59 acres is a must-have for Waltham for open space use and to curb expansion of Bentley University. This is a unique spot with a connected park and part of the Cornelia Warren properties left to be used for farming and philanthropy. The non-profits based here are unique to Waltham and provide educational opportunities not found in many urban areas. When acquired, I think the property should be used for sustainable agriculture and educational use only. I visited the field station recently and asked questions about its maintenance and use. It needs an upgrade. The tenants manage it largely themselves and need modern office space. I'd prefer to see farming and outdoor recreation as primary uses with more community meeting and educational areas. The farm could further be used for beekeeping and livestock and would be perfect for a summer camp and school field trips throughout the year.

Heather May: Agriculture is a home that I'm very comfortable in! I grew up in Nebraska, spending summers on my grandparent's farm in Kansas. As a small child, I often took naps in the back of a wheat combine while my grandfather and my uncles cut wheat. As an adult, my husband and I plant raised beds every summer, and I love to experiment with local flowers and plants in the back yard. I believe in the land as a provider and a teacher, and I believe that our role is that of stewards and students. I envision the field station as a home to the many non-profit entities that help us maintain and grow our stewardship of the land

whether through hands on work, financial contributions, or patronizing events etc... at the Field Station. [Regarding uses]: The WLT states on its' website, when discussing the endangered status of the Field Station and Lawrence Meadows, "This one unique place incorporates the history of American agriculture, the legacy of Waltham's foremost benefactor, an irreplaceable link in the Western Greenway, the best farm soils in our region, and a community of groups bringing food, agriculture, and education to the region's residents." Given this information, I believe the only uses that should be allowed are those that are agricultural or maintaining of open/green space related.

Ward 3

George Darcy: As the UMASS Field Station matter is currently being discussed in executive session in the City Council, I am limited as to what I can say on the matter. That being said, I was a co-sponsor of the resolution submitted to the City Council on December 26, 2018 whose resolves read as follows:

"NOW, BE IT RESOLVED... That the Waltham City Council investigate the acquisition of the publicly owned UMASS Field Station, for farming and open space purposes, for low or no cost, thus preserving the last working farm in Waltham,

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED... That the Waltham City Council investigate nominating the UMASS Field Station landscape and historic structures for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places;"

Ultimately I hope that the 58 acre UMASS parcel on Beaver Street continues as a working farm in perpetuity for our children and grand-children. The other ideas of a center for urban sustainability and a year round fruit & vegetable market both have great merit and should be explored. For what it's worth, the entire UMASS parcel is zoned Conservation/Recreation (CR).

Besides the UMASS parcel, the City is moving forward to reestablish the 4 acre Arrigo farm at 342/344 Warren Street as well as the 6 acre Wellington Farm at 775 Trapelo Road.

Ward 6

Sean Durkee: The Waltham Field Station and Lawrence Meadows should be kept in accordance to the wishes of Cornelia Warren as much as possible -- agriculture and parkland. Allow the many great organizations, such as Waltham Fields Community Farm, to continue their charitable and educational community services. But I also think we should be bold. Let's consider a wind turbine on the land for an alternative energy source. What about an on-site discovery laboratory for middle and high school students wishing to study agriculture, energy, community service, etc? We always talk about zero carbon footprints -- could we build an on-site, fully renewable energy residence for a site steward? We can

choose to accept or reject any of these or better ideas. Our actions today should look modern or recognizable to those who ask about our choices as a history lesson at the end of the 21st Century. After all, Waltham can lead the green revolution as much as it led the Industrial Revolution.

Ward 7

Kristine Mackin: Waltham's farm should remain a farm! I support permanent protections on this land, to maintain agricultural activity, and for the land to lapse back into passive open space management should future generations no longer wish to farm. I am opposed to any new development on this parcel.

Ward 9

Donald Desrochers: The UMass proposal to turn the property into a center for food sustainability was admirable and appeared to have the support of the community partners who have ensured the long-term preservation of the land. I would support the revival of that proposal, providing it still has the support of the organizations based at the Field Station. The restoration of the original deed from Cornelia Warren to ensure land preservation should be foundational to any proposal; the only modifications to that deed should serve to strengthen it and have the clear support of knowledgeable stakeholders.

Robert Logan: My vision for the future of that property is to have all of the organizations now there just keep doing what they are doing. If there is some way to improve on that, I'm open to suggestions, but all planning for that property must be collaborative and involve all stakeholders.

Jonathan Paz: Not only will I protect the site, but I will work to strengthen and expand the great work carried out by the Waltham Field Station (WFS). This includes developing a yearlong partnership between our public schools and WFS. While acquiring and maintaining the Waltham Field Station will be a great first step, it is not enough. I will support local, food production programs that will give us the opportunity to alleviate food insecurity for low-income households. Without a doubt, local food production is the way of the future.

At Large

Colleen Bradley-MacArthur: As a city we need to protect the Waltham Field Station and Lawrence Meadows on Beaver Street. These wetlands, fields, and buildings are invaluable to the community from a historical, social, and environmental standpoint. The wetlands should be protected from any further development. The buildings should be upgraded to include space for programming for the community. Surrounding cities and towns have centers for adult and community education. We have all of the resources to provide this

type of education to our community and a rich agricultural and historical legacy to communicate.

I completely support the mission of the Waltham Fields Community Farm to “promote local agriculture and food access through their farming operations and educational programs.” My son has participated in their “Learning Garden” program and he regularly benefits from the food they provide to the school lunch program. There’s plenty of evidence that urban farms provide families with an additional source of healthy, low-cost produce.

Urban farms that “use practices that are socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable”, such as the farm at the Waltham Field Station, benefit the entire health of the city's ecosystem. They add to our green space. Access to healthy food also contributes to the overall health of our population. This ties into the last portion of Waltham Community Fields mission to “encourage healthy relationships between people, their food supply, and the land from which it grows.” There is also ample evidence that open space and urban agriculture strengthen a sense of community.

Randy LeBlanc: These are significant parcels that could be better utilized. For example a farm stand like some of the many we have lost in the city, selling the vegetables grown. When the farm is not utilizing the land in winter months it could easily and inexpensively be used as a cross country ski track around the outside, with possibilities of an outdoor skating rink.

Kathleen McMenimen: Let me begin by asking you to appreciate the dilemma I find myself in! I have searched all through decades of communications and correspondence regarding the land you have asked me to personally opine about, and more specifically to address the questions you’ve posed above. You have a special interest in the land with a long-term preservation goal, and you’ve asked me to “pledge” to your visionary statement. Unfortunately I am unable to do so.

As recently as the last few weeks, I have communications marked “confidential” or “attorney-client” from the City of Waltham that require me, as an elected member of the City Council, to abide by the confidentiality clause, and by restrictions in “Executive Session” and not speak about matters related to your questions. Thank you for your understanding. However, I believe I can state, as fact, that my past support/rejection of similar issues, and my historic track record of similar votes can give you an indication of my position.

Patrick O'Brien: My family have been members of the Waltham Fields Community Farms from 2012-2018 (we hope to join back up next year). We really enjoyed the benefits of the farm right in the middle of Waltham. When we started going, my daughters were only 7 and 5 years old. They learned a lot about the importance of farming and eating healthy. Last April, I had the opportunity to testify in support of the WFS at the meeting which occurred at the Clark Government Building on School Street. I would support whatever working

group is formed to save the land from development. I would also support using CPA funds to address the "long-overdue repairs, renovations, and remediation issues at WFS." This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we should protect it for future generations.

Thomas Stanley: I support the City acquiring the UMASS property along Beaver Street with Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding without further delay.

I have long supported the continuance of farming at the UMASS Field Station. I was proud to play a major role in securing millions of dollars in state funding for the creation of a Sustainability Center at the site. Unfortunately, the Baker Administration did not release this important funding and instead chose to sell the property.

Regarding the future of the parcels, I envision farming to continue and expand to the north part of the property, as well as the continued use of meeting space by the current non-profit organizations. Additionally, I would like to see the creation of a Sustainability Center to serve Waltham and its surrounding communities.

Carlos Vidal: There isn't much I can discuss or say about this topic because as of right now it is in executive session and as an elected official, I cannot discuss this with residents or local organizations. This is the reason why it is hard to envision a long-term plan for this property.

If we have care and control of the property in the future, we will need to bring all interested residents and local organizations to the table to listen to their ideas to make this a safe environment for farming or what other activities are wanted at this parcel.

For Ward 1 candidates: We hope you are aware that the City of Waltham's Recreation Department is working on an updated Master Plan for Prospect Hill Park. What would you do to bring more residents and visitors to Waltham's oldest and largest park while enhancing their experience there?

David Gately: It is important to publicize Prospect Hill Park with local, state, and regional tourism boards which will promote visitors to our city. Working with Chamber of Commerce organizations and business companies to promote the Park would assist in that effort. I would also advocate for local and area schools to host Prospect Hill Park visitations so that school students can witness the natural state of this true Waltham gem.

Elizabeth Gelles: I think that Prospect Hill Park could be made more accessible to residents by having the trolley have a regular up and down schedule in the summer on weekends. There should be new and improved maps of the trails available, as a neighbor, over the years, I have learned the trails, but at first I found them intimidating because the maps were not that easy to follow.

I would encourage usage by:

- (a) Having a local artist provide classes in the summer for groups of all ages that wish to learn to draw or paint the beautiful landscapes,
- (b) We should encourage photography groups to utilize this space for stunning photography.
- (c) Movie night in the open-air with food trucks or bring a picnic.

Bill Hanley, candidate for Ward 2: I realize this was meant only for Ward 1 candidates, but Prospect Hill is near and dear to me. My parents met at the former teen drop-in center at Prospect Hill and I grew up playing, skiing, and going to summer camp there when there was an animal farm. Winter use is first and foremost on my mind. Prospect Hill closes for winter and Waltham needs more options for outdoor activity in the winter months. While returning the hill to skiing would be expensive, it should be an option along with snowshoeing trails, tubing, and an outdoor skating rink at the base of the hill. The former ski lodge building is also underused. We have held little league meetings and coaching clinics there in the winter and it is a great indoor open space for use when school gyms are booked. The parking lot makes the options for use very attractive. Connecting that parking lot to the Veterans Rink also has to be a priority. It is not safe to cross busy Totten Pond Rd, especially at night. A footbridge or other safe option has to be part of any plans for use of either property.