



Town Property Forest Stewardship Planning

Town of Blandford

December 2022



Agricultural Commission Role and Rationale

Agricultural Commission mission as stated in Town Bylaw XVIII: “Encourage, promote and support the pursuit of farming and forestry in the Town both as a business and a community resource.”

Role and Duties

- 1. ...advocates, educators, facilitators and/or mediators on... forestry issues... within the Town*
- 2. Advising [other public bodies] on all matters pertaining to ...forestry activities or lands in Town*
- 3. Engaging in projects and activities including... forest land stewardship in Town*
- 4. Developing warrant articles, policies and procedures advocating and promoting agriculture and forestry*



Possible Forest Management Objectives

1. Maintain or enhance **wildlife habitat**
2. Improve **recreational opportunities**
3. Produce immediate and maximize long-term **income** from harvesting activity
4. Protect **soil and water quality**, or produce forest **specialty products** such as maple syrup

Proposed Approach



TA / Ag
Commission

Procure
Forestry
Services

Contracted
Forester

Develop Forest
Mgmt. and
Cutting Plans

Other
Relevant
Public
Bodies

Guide
Development of
Plans

Con
Comm

Cutting Plan Due Diligence Before
Harvest



Potential Revenue Uses

Outdoor Recreation Projects

Maintenance of Impacted Town Roads

Historic Preservation Efforts

Other Dept. Infrastructure Investments



Town-Owned Property Clusters

Freeland Brook
(land-locked
properties abutting
Mass Pike)

Long Pond
Conservation and
Water Protection
District Properties

Herrick Knittel
Conservation Area

Transfer
Station/Huntington
Road/Knox Road

Tax Title Properties

Other
Miscellaneous





Freeland Brook (Mass Pike)



Four Town-owned parcels landlocked by Mass Pike



Roughly 100 acres of forested land



Abuts Ski Area/Nye Brook/Russell Stage Properties



Relevant Public Bodies:
Conservation Commission and Historical Commission



Recreation/Historic Preservation Opportunities: One Room Schoolhouse



Landfill (Huntington & Knox Rd)



Three Town-owned parcels by landfill and one on Knox Road



Roughly 25 acres of forested land



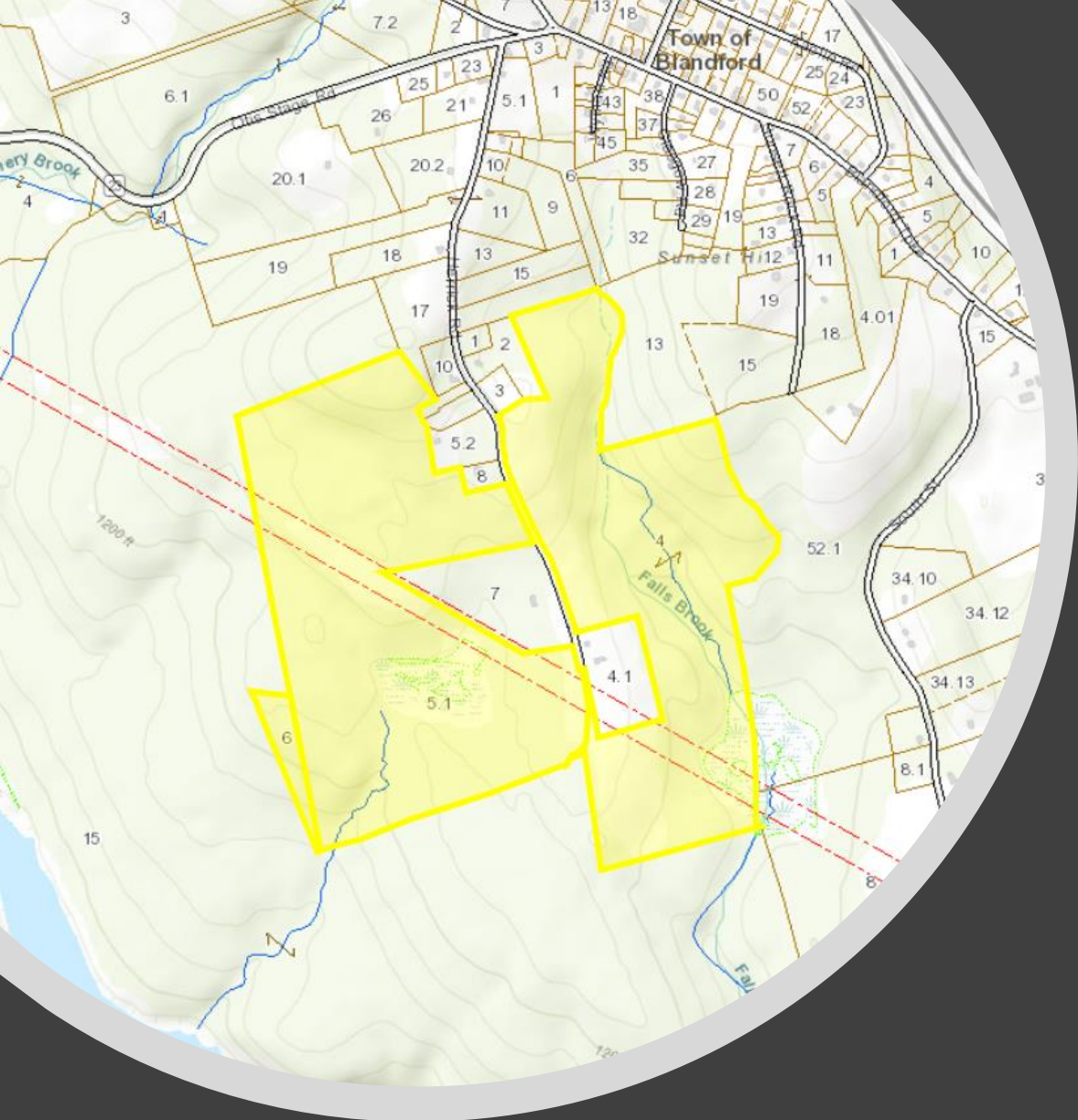
Abuts Town of Russell Watershed and Huntington Rd Properties



Relevant Public Bodies:
Conservation Commission and Board of Health



Recreation/Historic Preservation Opportunities:
Knox Road Cellar Hole



Herrick Knittel Conservation Area



Three Town-owned parcels with a Conservation Restriction



Roughly 200 acres of forested land



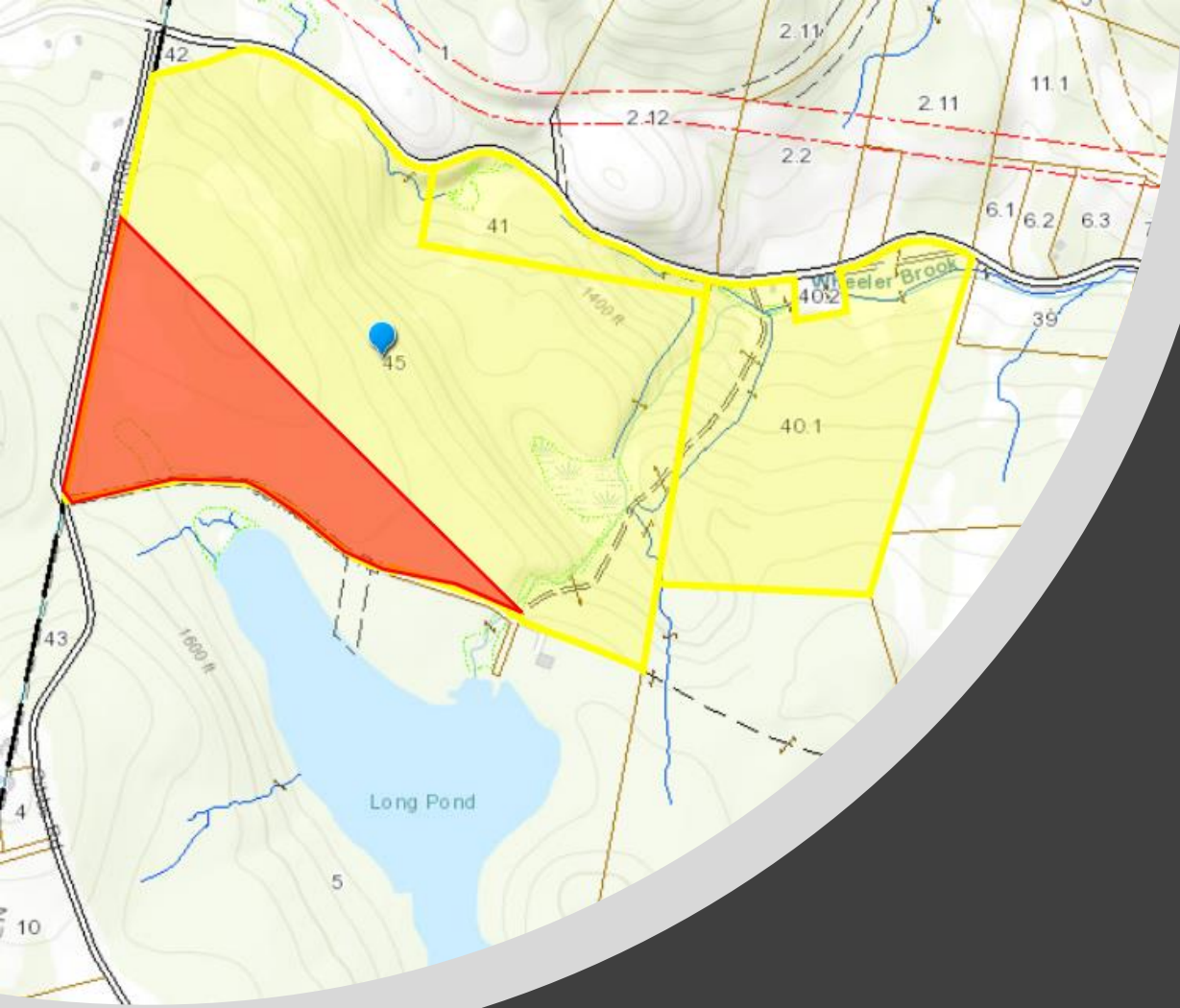
Abuts Springfield Water / Herrick Rd Residential Properties



Relevant Public Bodies: Conservation Commission



Recreation/Historic Preservation Opportunities: Trail/Trailhead Improvements



Long Pond Conservation Area



Three Parcels south of North Blandford Road at the Otis Town Line



Roughly 250 acres of forested land



Overlaps with Watershed Protection District



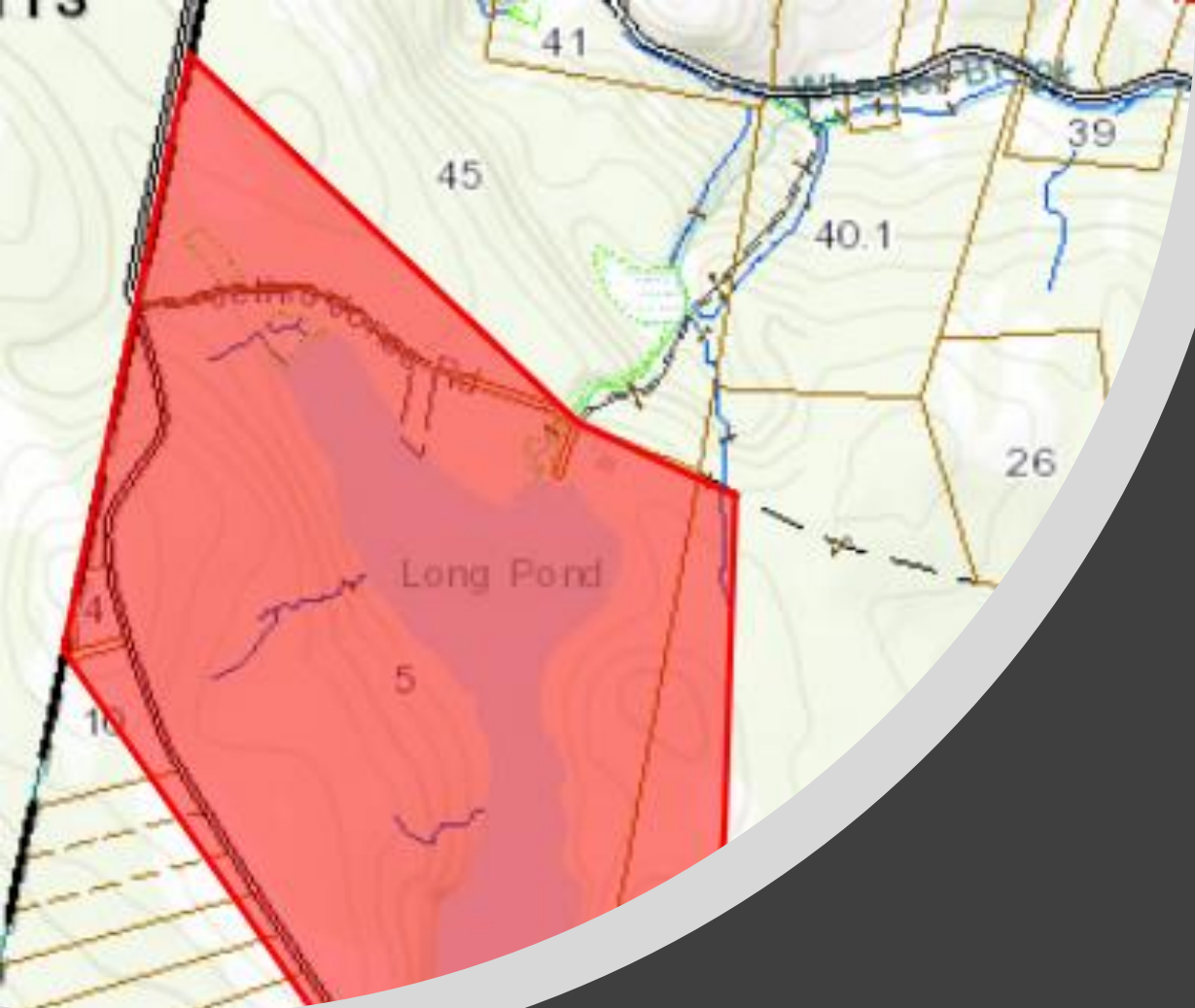
Abuts Water Treatment Plant Property/Hull/N Blandford Properties



Relevant Public Body:
Conservation Commission



Recreation/Historic Preservation Opportunities:
Construction of Trailhead for Public Access



Long Pond Watershed Protection District



Overlaps two Town-owned parcels around Long Pond



Roughly 275 acres of forested land



Abuts Gibbs Rd Residences, Hull /Long Pond Conservation Area



Relevant Public Bodies:
Conservation Commission and Water Department



Recreation/Historic Preservation Opportunities:
Construction of Trail/Trailhead for Public Access

Other Options

Properties in Tax Title

Intergovernmental Agreements

Other



Timeline

**December
2022**
Meeting #1
Approach

January 2023
Meeting #2
Finalize RFP

**Feb/March
2023**
Meeting #3
Review Bids
and
Recommend
Award

**Spring &
Summer 2023**
Contractor Site
Visits

Fall 2023
Management
and Cutting
Plan
Development

Ongoing:
Future
Potential
Timber Sales
and Public
Improvements