



## Open Space Committee

March 7, 2016  
Kevin F. Greeley, Chair  
Board of Selectmen  
Town of Arlington  
720 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Mr. Greeley and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Open Space Committee, I would like to support the recent motion by the Conservation Commission to oppose Warrant Article 30 and to maintain permanent protection of all 10.7 acres of conservation land at Mt. Gilboa. We encourage the Board of Selectmen to vote no action on Warrant Article 30, which proposes to transfer a portion of the land to the Arlington Housing Authority.

While our committee also supports the provision of additional affordable housing in Arlington, this property is an inappropriate location for such a use.

The Town's current 2015-2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan specifically states among its goals to "protect, maintain, and enhance existing open spaces, including watersheds, waterbodies, and natural areas; parks, playgrounds and outdoor recreational facilities; and historic sites and cultural landscapes." Mt. Gilboa represents both a natural area and a cultural landscape, and it is included within the Mt. Gilboa Historic District.

The land is also protected under the state's Article 97, excerpted in part:

"It is the policy of EEA and its agencies to protect, preserve and enhance all open space areas covered by Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Accordingly, as a general rule, EEA and its agencies shall not sell, transfer, lease, relinquish, release, alienate, or change the control or use of any right or interest of the Commonwealth in and to Article 97 land. The goal of this policy is to ensure no net loss of Article 97 lands under the ownership and control of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions."

Thank you for your consideration of this Conservation Commission motion and of all the implications involved in any proposed transfer of currently protected open space into an incompatible use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ann LeRoy".

Ann LeRoy, Chair  
Open Space Committee

Cc: Nathaniel Stevens, Chair, Conservation Commission  
Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager  
Douglas Heim, Town Counsel