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Town of Bedford, New Hampshire
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Town of Bedford and the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) are pleased to announce that they have completed the conservation of 123 acres of land formerly owned by the Marcia Marston Trust (Marston Trust) in Bedford and Goffstown.

On December 23, 2021, the Town of Bedford purchased approximately 46 acres of undeveloped land from the Marston Trust located on the west side of Wallace Road, on the Bedford/Goffstown border. The Marston Trust had previously been preparing to market the land for development. The million-dollar purchase was funded from the town's conservation fund, meaning there is no impact on town taxpayers.

As an additional conservation measure, the Town of Bedford conveyed a conservation easement on the 46-acre parcel to the PLC. The town also signed an agreement with the Marston Trust giving the town a right of first offer to purchase an additional 72-acre parcel located across the street on Wallace Road, if the Trust ever decides to sell it in the future.

In a separate transaction completed on December 15th, the Marston Trust donated 77 acres of nearby land in Bedford and Goffstown to PLC to be managed for wildlife conservation and low-impact recreation.

The Marston lands include a long stretch of undeveloped frontage on Wallace Road, a fast-developing area, identified in the Bedford Open Space plan as a priority for protection because of its proximity to other conservation lands, demand for development, existing natural conditions and scenic opportunities. "The Town is grateful for the Marston Trust's commitment to protecting the rural character of Bedford for future generations," said Dave Gilbert, Chair of the Bedford Town Council.

The Town of Bedford and the Piscataquog Land Conservancy share ownership and conservation responsibilities on several properties such as Pulpit Rock, Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, and the Van Loan Preserve. The Bedford Conservation Commission (Commission), acting on behalf of the Town, looks forward to its ongoing collaboration with PLC to establish trails, public parking, and retention of historic relics on the property purchased by the Town.

Patricia Grogan, Chair of the Bedford Conservation Commission observed, “The timing is ideal as the Commission seeks to establish a Trail Stewardship Subcommittee for 2022.” For more information on the work of the Commission or to join the Trail Stewardship Subcommittee, please contact the Bedford Planning Department. To learn more about the Piscataquog Land Conservancy visit their website at www.plcnh.org.