



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

**Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer St., Room 202**

**In-Person/Remote Meeting**

**Special Meeting – Remote Only**

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Present – President Jordan, Councilors Barrett, Bevilacqua, and Sullivan

Remote – Councilors Michitson, Lewandowski, McGonagle, Rogers, and Toohey

City Clerk – Kaitlin M. Wright

- 1. OPENING PRAYER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING**  
Councilor Rogers assigned the minutes.

**4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

4.1. Mayor Fiorentini submits Order to approve and accept the Conservation Restriction on the land described as 908 West Lowell Avenue, Haverhill, Massachusetts, granted to the Essex County Greenbelt Association, Inc, a Massachusetts not for profit corporation, and to approve the Conservation Commission's municipal certification dated June 1, 2023, accepting said Conservation Restriction

4.1.1. Order – Haverhill City Council approve and accept the Conservation Restriction on the land described as 908 West Lowell Avenue

*Related communication from Maggie Brown of Essex County Greenbelt Association*

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, second Councilor Barrett*

**PASSED**

*Yeas 9, Nays 0*

46-B

Councilor Bevilacqua supports it but wanted to ask if a sign could be posted that enables the public to know it is open space/conversation and can use it for passive recreation. The city approves a lot of conservation sites, but no one knows where they are and would like to include as part of the motion.

Maggie Brown, attending remotely, addressed the signage in the fact the Greenbelt is working with land that is in a conservative conservation restriction to increase signage on those properties. It is great to get the message out. To clarify, the property at 908 West Lowell Avenue is still owned by the private land doner. Whether the public is allowed is up to the private land owner. Signage wouldn't encourage the public to access it but working on getting more signage on those conservation restrictions that do allow public access.



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Councilor Bevilacqua asked if it is owned by the private property owner, is the Greenbelt just owning the restrictions? What role would Greenbelt have?

Maggie Brown stated Greenbelt holds the conservation restriction and monitors the terms of the CR going forward.

Councilor Bevilacqua stated if Greenbelt is the beneficiary of the restriction, then you should be able to post signage to enable the public to utilize it.

Maggie Brown replied that the conversation restriction allows the land owner to put up signage but does not require them to do so.

Councilor Rogers stated that it is private property.

Councilor Bevilacqua recommendation is to enable public to use the property because the conservation restriction gives tax benefit and reduction by the city by awarding the restriction. Think it is appropriate to give tax payers an opportunity to utilize the site if they chose.

Maggie Brown stated the property is still owned by the private land owner and not available for public access. The fee is the ownership of the property.

Councilor Rogers commented stating that it is private property even if they give the development rights to the city, it is still private property.

Councilor Sullivan stated she is correct.

President Jordan commented that some of the restrictions do allow for people to walk on it but it is usually posted as such.

Councilor Rogers stated it allows it to stay in open space so they can never develop it but they still own the property.

Councilor Bevilacqua does not agree.

Councilors Rogers and Sullivan stated that is the law.

#### 5. ADJOURN :

*Motion by Councilor Barrett, second Councilor Sullivan*

*PASSED*

*All in Favor*

Adjourned 18:36