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## **Wellfleet Conservation Trust receives major gift of the Herring River Overlook Property from local resident**

(Wellfleet, MA...August 7, 2020) Jacquelyn Fouse of Wellfleet has donated the largest gift of upland ever to the Wellfleet Conservation Trust (WCT). Ms. Fouse gave WCT 18.5 acres of native pine forest overlooking the Herring River estuary above the Chequessett Neck Road dike. In announcing the gift, WCT President Dennis (Denny) O'Connell said, "The Trust is extremely grateful to Ms. Fouse for making this incredible conservation success happen. Jackie stepped up in a magnificent way. We honor Jackie for her commitment to conservation. It is exciting to think that this beautiful land has never been developed, and never will be."

Ms. Fouse had recently acquired the land from the Chequessett Club. The land was surplus to Chequessett's current and planned golf course renovations. WCT will keep the area in its natural state, preserving the habitat and natural functions of the land. The Trust will create limited walking trails to scenic views across the Herring River valley. Access to the land and limited parking will be along Chequessett Neck Road only, not through the golf course.

The Chequessett Club's General Manager, Barbara Boone said, "Like many small businesses, we needed the capital to help us make some much-needed repairs and improvements to the club. We didn't, however, want to see this beautiful piece of property be developed if possible. Knowing it will be preserved through Jackie's generosity has made this a win for Chequessett and for the Town of Wellfleet, as well!"

The land runs 1,300 feet along the high eastern bank overlooking the Herring River at elevations extending above 60 feet. Long views are available to the mouth of the estuary and into Cape Cod Bay. The topography is rugged, sloping back towards the golf course and includes a small wetland. The land abuts the Cape Cod National Seashore boundary along the Herring River. The Overlook parcel is well above the expected river-restoration water levels. This land has significant conservation values for rare and endangered species. Access to the river is not afforded by the property, owing to intervening CCNS land and the steep riverbank.

“Moving year-round to Wellfleet was easily one of the best decisions I have ever made. I love it here,” said Ms. Fouse, a transplanted Texan. “To be able to give back to my adopted community this way and help to preserve our precious open space along the river brings me great joy. I hope people will visit and enjoy it respectfully. I would like to especially thank Denny, the WCT board, Barbara, the Chequessett board, Mark Robinson of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. and others who worked behind the scenes, for their collaboration and commitment to achieving a successful outcome to this project for all parties concerned.” Denny O’Connell noted that this is the second parcel of land that Ms. Fouse has donated to WCT, having transferred a building lot on Chequessett Neck Road to the Trust in 2015.

While taking a break from a long corporate career, primarily in the healthcare industry, Ms. Fouse earned a Master's degree in Environmental Management in 2019. Part of her course work was as a volunteer intern for the Herring River Restoration Project, studying carbon sequestration in the Herring River floodplain. As from her first visit to the Cape back in the mid-2000s, and subsequent purchase in 2009 of the house on CNR she shares with her partner, Jackie has been passionate about protecting this beautiful and fragile part of the Cape. The opportunity to contribute to the research supporting the Herring River Restoration Project further reinforced her views on the importance of restoring and protecting both the river as well as the land surrounding it, particularly in the area where the river joins the waters of The Gut in Wellfleet and ultimately Wellfleet Harbor and Cape Cod Bay. In 2019 Jackie also returned to the corporate world and serves as the CEO of a mid-size bio-pharmaceutical company in Cambridge where she has the flexibility to both live in Wellfleet and run the company. She also serves as a non-executive director on corporate boards and, most importantly, plans to make even more time in the future to further support environmental and conservation efforts in Wellfleet and on the Cape.

The magnitude of the land gift was echoed by Mark Robinson, Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. “In my 35 years of working with landowners to preserve open space throughout the Cape, I have never seen such a generous gift of upland as Jackie has made here. It is a legacy that Wellfleet and all of Cape Cod can be extremely proud of.”

This land will add significantly to WCT’s inventory of conservation properties, which now amounts to 323 acres of owned-land and 82 acres of land protected by conservation restrictions. WCT protects a total of 405 acres of land in Wellfleet.

Attach: Photos

### **About Wellfleet Conservation Trust**

Wellfleet Conservation Trust is an approved 501.C.3 non-profit local land trust established in 1984 to assist and promote the preservation of natural resources and rural character of the Town of Wellfleet. WCT’s mission is to conserve land in its natural state in perpetuity for enjoyment by current and future generations of all people, flora and fauna. For further information on WCT's efforts, visit the WCT website at [www.wellfleetconservationtrust.org](http://www.wellfleetconservationtrust.org) or the group’s FaceBook page or write WCT, PO Box 84, Wellfleet MA 02667.

The Herring River Overlook Property on Chequessett Neck Road, Wellfleet



Herring River Overlook Property looking downstream



Herring River Overlook Property looking upstream

