

The Fuller Committee
Steve Grossman, Co-Chair
Dana Hanson, Co-Chair
Tony Logalbo, Treasurer



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Dear Newton Conservators,

Open space is one of the aspects of Newton that makes it a great place to live. We are fortunate that past generations of activists had the foresight to propose the preservation of key parcels of land, and that past generations of elected officials had the foresight and good sense to agree with those proposals. I am grateful to you for continuing that tradition of activism with your advocacy for Webster Woods, the largest contiguous parcel of open space in Newton. As Mayor, I intend to continue that same tradition of foresight and good sense by preserving this parcel.

The 22-acre parcel of undeveloped land now owned by Boston College is directly in the middle of the public open space under the care of the City of Newton to the north and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to the south. Whatever happens to that parcel is critical to all residents of Newton for environmental, recreational, and educational reasons. Therefore, we need permanently to preserve and to protect the remaining open space within the parcel, including public use of the undeveloped wooded portion, as well as assure use compatible with this open space for the portion that is now occupied by structures and paved surfaces.

I am committed to:

1. Striking while the iron is hot. The opportunity to preserve open space does not come along every day, and once a parcel is developed, it's almost always gone forever. That is why preservation of appropriate open space in general, and the permanent protection of Webster Woods in particular, has always been a top priority of mine. ☐
2. Forming a citizen advisory group as soon as possible after taking office and meeting personally with the group at a minimum of once a quarter. ☐
3. Negotiating with Boston College for permanent protection of and public access to the undeveloped wooded area at a minimum, and preferably including the rear and front satellite parking areas and their abutting wooded areas as well. Restoring these parking lots to a natural condition would significantly expand and improve the safety of Webster Woods.

Furthermore, I will negotiate with BC for assurances of compatible future use of the remaining portion of the parcel. These negotiations will be concluded within two years of taking office, but preferably sooner. ☐

4. Submitting necessary approvals to the Community Preservation Act Committee and the City Council to finalize and implement the agreement with Boston College within two and a half years from taking office, but preferably sooner. I will also include the funding for acquiring the wooded portions of Webster Woods in the Capital Investment Plan the first year I am in office, and will follow that up with the necessary complementary funding (both CPA and, if necessary, city) to assure we achieve these objectives. ☐
5. Supporting a taking by eminent domain (or potentially an equally enforceable legal alternative) that ensures no development of the wooded area(s) of the parcel and continued public use of it, if, despite my best efforts, I am unable to forge a satisfactory agreement with Boston College. ☐
6. Imposing an enforceable perpetual conservation restriction on the open space. ☐
7. Exploring with DCR and the Conservation Commission the replacement of the current driveway access to ☐the site, which is hazardous, to the signalized intersection and driveway currently serving the Shops at Chestnut Hill and the Towers of Chestnut Hill. ☐

Please feel free to reach out to me to discuss Webster Woods. I can be reached at 617-738-5311 or ruthanne@ruthannefuller.com.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller

July 28, 2017