



August 2017

RE: Mayoral Candidate, Amy Mah Sangiolo's Pledge to Support Acquisition of Webster Woods

Dear Members of the Newton Conservators and Friends of Webster Woods,

As a 20 year member of the Newton City Council, a life-long environmental activist and a Mayoral candidate, I am writing to pledge my commitment and support for the the swift acquisition of the Webster Woods parcel. We have already lost so much of our urban forest to development. Here, we have an opportunity to preserve Webster Woods, in particular, the middle section currently owned by Boston College. Further development of this land will have detrimental impacts on the entire ecosystem of the woods and the only way to ensure its protection is to acquire the property in its entirety in perpetuity.

As a City Councilor, I have already pledged my support for acquisition of Webster Woods. I wholeheartedly supported a Resolution to the current Administration in 2015. As Mayor, I pledge that protection and acquisition of the area is permanently protected will be a top priority. The area to be protected and acquired either through outright purchase or by conservation restriction (to be granted to the Newton Conservators or other organization to serve as holder of the restriction) shall include:

- 1) The wooded area west of the rear parking lot that contains the Bare Pond vernal pool,
- 2) The MASCO parking lot that adjoins the Bare Pond, and
- 3) The Wooded area between the rear parking lot and the pavement adjacent to the western side of the temple building.

As part of this acquisition, I will seek funding to ensure that the rear parking lot and driveway is restored to its natural condition. As stated earlier, I will ensure that either the Newton Conservators or another organization serve as holder of the restriction not only on the acquired land or acquired conservation restriction but also on the city-owned portions of the Webster Woods land. I will coordinate with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to improve access to the site with potential signalization and driveway improvements and remove and restore the small parking lot immediately adjacent to Hammond Pond Parkway.

The City has an historical commitment to this area and has precedent for using eminent domain to obtain conservation land. We did it back in 1968 to save Houghton Garden from development and we can do it again to save Webster Woods should we be unable to reach an agreement with Boston College.

As Mayor, I will draw upon my legal skills and experience and my commitment and passion to preserve and protect Newton's precious natural resources. Webster Woods will be a top priority.

Sincerely,

Amy Mah Sangiolo
Ward 4, Councilor-at-Large, City of Newton
Candidate for Mayor, City of Newton