

March 21, 2025

Mr. Stephen Callahan  
Mr. Robert Sliney  
Ms. Ashley Leduc  
Warrant Committee  
Town of Medfield  
459 Main Street  
Medfield, MA 02052

RE: Medfield Conservation Commission  
2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles (FY2026)

Dear Messrs. Callahan and Sliney and Ms. LeDuc:

Mr. John Woodhull and I are writing on behalf of the Medfield Conservation Commission which seeks the Warrant Committee's support of the Commission's remaining two Articles on the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (addressing FY 2026). The Commission voluntarily has withdrawn its third Article seeking to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw to apply water conservation restrictions to private well owners. The Commission intends to submit this "Water Conservation/Private Well Restrictions" Article for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant after engaging in public education and outreach efforts anticipated to begin this June, well in advance of submission of the Article for town meeting consideration in 2026.

The remaining Articles for your consideration include Danielson Pond Dam and Conservation Trust Fund discussed following.

#### **Danielson Pond Dam**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of \$50,000.00 and determine in what manner said sum shall be raised for the purpose of funding safety-related work at Danielson Pond Dam, including tree removal, the employ of consultants, engineers, and/or contractors/subcontractors, to advise on the scope of necessary work and undertake safety-related work in accordance with the Commonwealth's dam safety regulations or do or act anything in relation thereto.

The information specific to the Danielson Pond request is attached in a Power Point summary that provides a brief chronology of the events that identified Danielson Pond dam safety concerns resulting in state mandated response actions by the town with associated costs. We believe the Power Point information will assist the Warrant Committee in understanding the nature and extent of the concerns at Danielson Pond and the time and cost constraints associated with addressing those concerns. John Woodhull and I will be available on March 25 to answer any questions you may have.

### **Conservation Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$5,000 from Certified Free Cash to the Conservation Trust Fund to be used by the Conservation Commission for any purpose authorized by Chapter 40, Section 8C of the Massachusetts General Laws; or do or act anything in relation thereto.

In recent history (from the at least the mid-2000s), the Commission (up through 2018) annually requested the amount of \$5,000.00 to deposit in the Conservation Trust Fund, those funds to be used by the Commission for the purposes authorized by G.L. c. 40, sec. 8C. A copy of this statute is attached. The Commission used the Conservation Trust funds to purchase land (supporting the acquisition of Red Gate Farm, for example) and to manage the town properties under the Commission's care, custody and control, which properties total slightly more than 50% of the town's open space. Research suggests that the Commission's requests for funds for the Conservation Trust Fund historically were addressed through the capital budget process.

In 2019, the Commission voted to transfer from the Conservation Trust Fund the amount of \$30,000.00 to help defray the costs associated with DPW/Pare Engineering's efforts to respond to the Commonwealth's request for evidence of compliance with the 2018 Danielson Pond Dam Safety Order. (The Danielson Pond Power Point provides additional detail with respect to the need for this funding in 2019.) At the time of that transfer in 2019, the Conservation Trust Fund had a balance of about \$50,000.00 (subject to confirmation from the town accountant). The \$30,000.00 substantially reduced the balance in the Conservation Trust Fund which today has a balance of approximately \$16,144.84 (again, subject to confirmation by the town accountant).

The Commission has not received any amounts for deposit in the Conservation Trust Fund since 2018 according to reports from the town. The balance in the Conservation Trust Fund as noted above reflects interest/investment earnings and losses. The Commission presently requests the amount of \$5,000.00 to deposit into the Conservation Trust Fund to help begin to replenish amounts spent in 2019 and not recovered in any measure to date.

The Commission will continue to request updated information from the town, and Mr. Woodhull and I will be available on March 25 to answer any additional questions

pertaining to the Conservation Trust Fund request.

Thank you for your consideration of the Conservation Commission's 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles. We look forward to meeting with you on March 25. Please feel free to reach out with any questions in the meantime.

Sincerely,  
On behalf of the Medfield Conservation Commission

/s/ Deborah J. Bero  
Deborah J. Bero

/s/ John Woodhull  
JohnWoodhull

cc: Finn Kelley, Conservation Commission Agent