

Community Preservation Act Committee- Proposal Request Form for FY 2020

Project Title: Hickory Ridge Property Preservation

CPA funding category: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Housing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Open Space
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$200,000

Submitting Entity: Amherst Conservation Department

Contact Person: David Ziomek

Phone: (413) 259-3122

Email: ziomekd@amherstma.gov

Please complete this form in its entirety and include the following in your proposal.

Overview of Proposal: Please describe your project and your feasibility analysis

The Town is working on a project to protect portions of the land formerly used as the Hickory Ridge golf course on West Pomeroy Lane in South Amherst, see Figure 1. The entire property is approximately 150 acres, however, approximately 25 acres maybe used for a solar installation. The Fort River meanders through the middle of the property dividing it in half north and south. The Fort River is the longest unimpeded tributary of the Connecticut River, it contains both state and federally (Dwarf Wedgemussel) listed endangered species, and is home to a diverse population of both resident and migratory fish and other animals. The river is treasured by the Town's residents for its scenic beauty, resource value, and recreational opportunities. It is one of the highest conservation priorities of the Town which has spent decades protecting acres of land along its banks and watershed. This is an incredible opportunity to permanently protect over 1.4 miles of the Fort River and its floodplain.

Describe how your request meets the CPA criteria:

1. Description of funding needed, including:

a. Documentation of cost estimates, budget

The budget is unknown at this time. The FY2020 CPA funds will be the start of the Town's efforts to put together a purchase package for the property

b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund-raising

The Town will be seeking additional funding for this large acquisition. Additional funds may come from state or federal grants, and be supplemented by the potential sale of portions of the property near West Pomeroy Lane as residential lots.

c. Timeline on how CPA funds would be spent, including over multiple years

The Town would like to use the CPA funds to purchase the property in FY2020 or FY2021.

2. Urgency of the Project, if any.

The owner of Hickory Ridge Golf Course is interested in using the land for other purposes, such as solar, or selling it. The Town has been in discussions with the owner about the Town buying portions of the property. Designs for a solar array covering approximately 24 acres (one sixth of the property) have been submitted to the Town for permitting.

3. Estimated timeline from receipt of funds to Project completion.

Approximately one to two years.

4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources.

The Fort River is the longest unimpeded tributary of the Connecticut River, it contains both state and federally (Dwarf Wedgemussel) listed freshwater mussels, and is home to a diverse population of both resident and migratory fish and other animals, such as the wood turtle which is a state listed species of special concern. The river is treasured by the Town's residents for its scenic beauty, resource value, and recreational opportunities. It is one of the highest conservation priorities of the Town which has spent decades protecting acres of land along its banks and watershed. The majority of the site is mapped by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program as Priority and Estimated Habit, Critical Natural Landscape and Core Habitat, see Figure 3.

5. Population(s) to be served by the Project.

The Town would like to preserve the land for conservation and passive recreation purposes such as hiking, birding, fishing, and cross country skiing. At this time plans for improvements to the property, such as trails, and river access have not been designed. The conservation land would serve the residents of South Amherst, especially the adjacent residential neighborhoods off of West Pomeroy Lane.

6. How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

Town of Amherst Conservation Department staff would maintain the land over time for conservation and passive recreation purposes. Portions of the property may be restored to a more natural floodplain through removal of turf and planting of native trees, shrubs, and grasses.

7. Which relevant Town committees and/or commissions are you working with?

The Conservation Commission will be discussing the CPA funding for the project at its upcoming meetings in December 2018.

8. Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC.

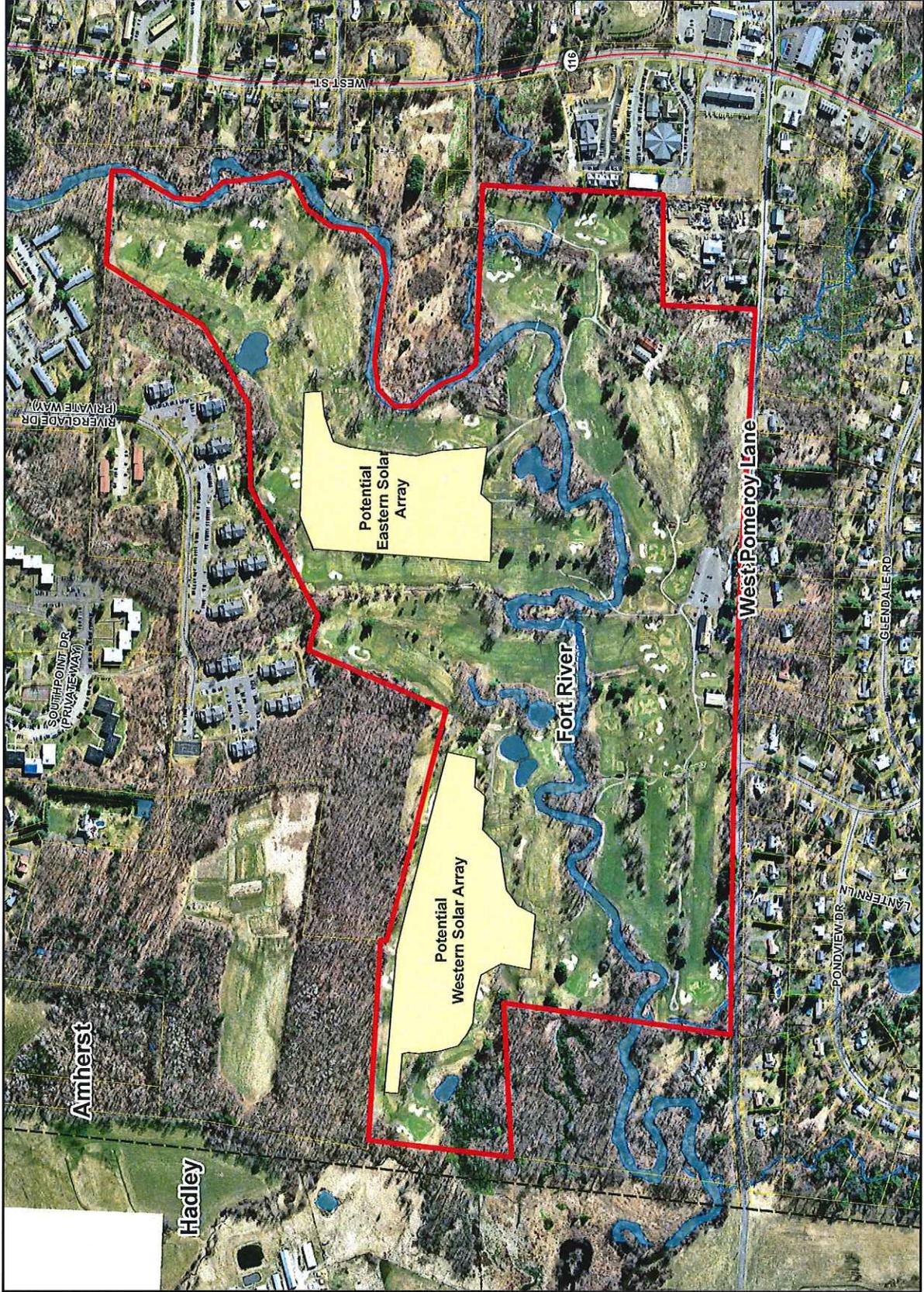
None.

**CPA Proposal FY2020
Hickory Ridge Property**

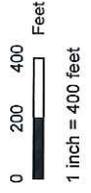


Figure 1: Site Boundary

- Hickory Ridge Property
- - - Town Boundaries



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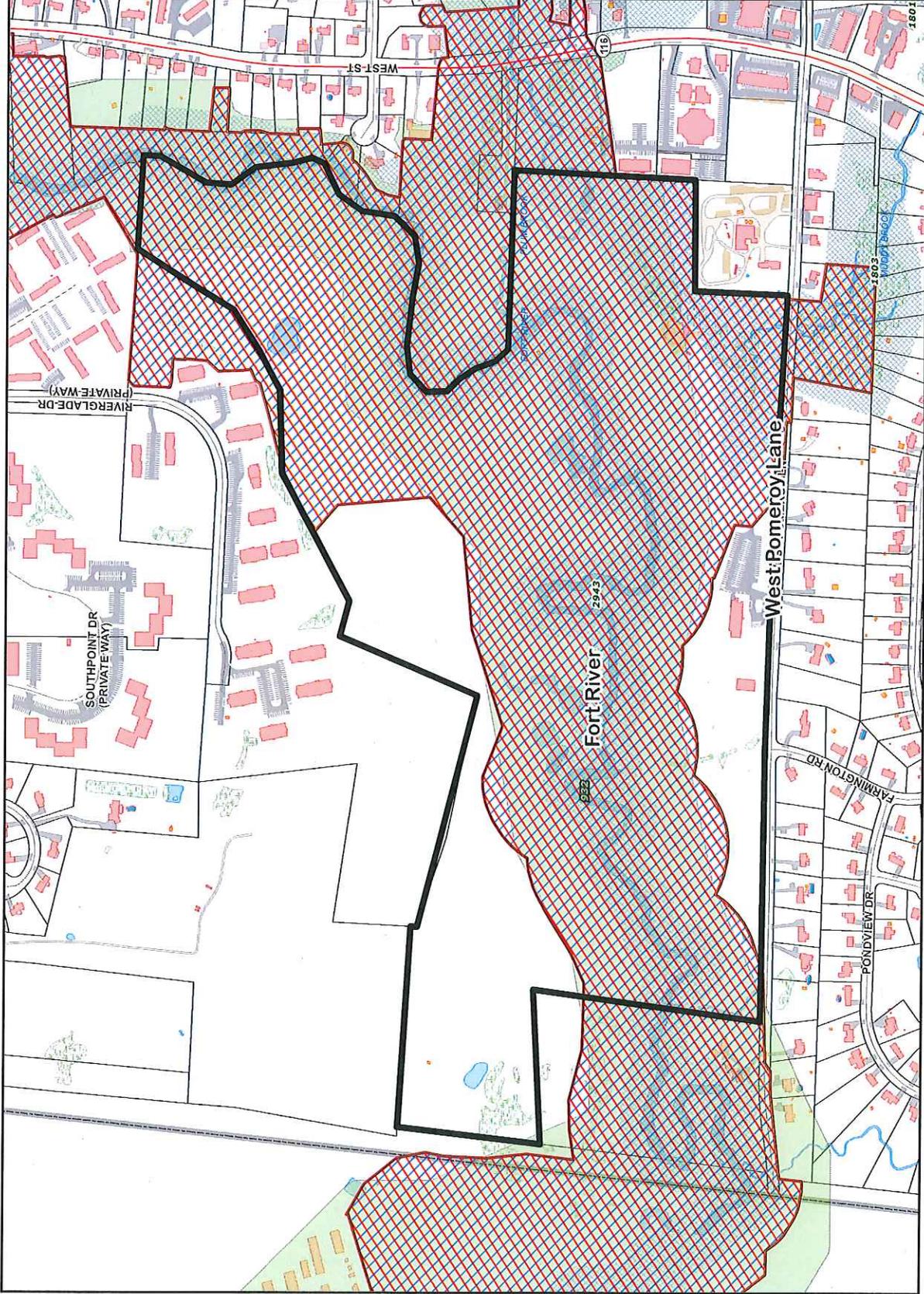


**CPA Proposal FY2020
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**Figure 3: NHESP BioMap 2
& Endangered Species
Habitat**

-  NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
-  NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
-  BioMap2 Core Habitat
-  BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape



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