

## Resident donates nearly 20 acres to Wellfleet trust

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WELLFLEET — Jacquelyn Fouse of Wellfleet has donated the largest gift of upland ever to the Wellfleet Conservation Trust. Ms. Fouse gave the trust 18.5 acres of native pine forest overlooking the Herring River estuary above the Chequessett Neck Road dike. In announcing the gift, trust President Dennis (Denny) O’Connell said, “The Trust is extremely grateful to Ms. Fouse for making this incredible conservation success happen.”

Ms. Fouse had recently acquired the land from the Chequessett Club. The land was surplus to Chequessett’s current and planned golf course renovations. The trust 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.

Chequessett Club 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.

“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.”

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. 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.

The trust's inventory is 323 acres owned and 82 acres protected by conservation restrictions.