



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members
From: Daniel Dickerson, Fiscal Analyst
Date: May 19, 2020
Subject: Grant Request – JFO #3006

Enclosed please find one (1) item, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Administration.

JFO #3006 – \$29,750 from the Vermont Land Trust to the VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. These funds would be used towards the purchase of 527 acres of property in the town of Shrewsbury to establish a new wildlife management area. The total acquisition and legal costs for the purchase are \$435,000. The town of Shrewsbury has raised \$85,000 and the rest will come from federal Pittman-Robertson funds. The state will take on future PILOT and maintenance costs for the property.

[JFO received 05/13/20]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Daniel Dickerson at (802) 828-2472; ddickerson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by June 2, 2020 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of this request.



Fish & Wildlife Department
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, Vermont 05620
www.vtfishandwildlife.com

Agency of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Middleman, Budget Analyst
FROM: Elizabeth Stratton, Financial Manager
SUBJECT: Donation Acceptance Request
DATE: February 10, 2020

Enclosed is a Request for Grant Acceptance (Form AA-1) for \$29,750 from the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) that will help fund a land acquisition in Shrewsbury Vermont.

This property is 527 acres in Shrewsbury Vermont that will become a new Wildlife Management Area. The project will conserve a significant wildlife corridor, upland habitats and public access for wildlife-based recreation and has been named the Lottery Road Wildlife Corridor project.

The total cost is approximately \$435,000. \$85,000 of the cost will come from the habitat stamp fund, specifically via small donations solicited to townspeople of Shrewsbury and earmarked for this land purchase, and \$29,750 donated by VLT. The remainder will be funded by federal Pittman-Robertson funds.

The department will assume future PILOT payment costs and maintenance of signage and kiosks in the future.

Included is a memo to Governor Scott seeking approval for the purchase as well as a map of the property.

A response can be returned to my attention at:

Fish & Wildlife Department
1 National Life Drive, Dewey 2
Montpelier, Vermont 05620

Please let me know if you need any further information. I can be reached at 802-828-1191.

State of Vermont
 Department of Finance & Management
 109 State Street, Pavilion Building
 Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

[phone] 802-828-2376
 [fax] 802-828-2428

Agency of Administration

**STATE OF VERMONT
 FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**



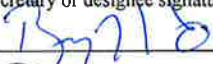
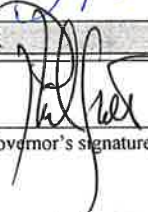
Grant Summary:						This is a grant from the Vermont Land Trust to help fund a Fish and Wildlife Department land acquisition in Shrewsbury, Vermont.								
Date:						3/10/2020								
Department:						Fish and Wildlife Department								
Legal Title of Grant:						Lottery Road Wildlife Connectivity land acquisition in Shrewsbury								
Federal Catalog #:														
Grant/Donor Name and Address:						Vermont Land Trust, 8 Bailey Avenue, Montpelier, VT 05602								
Grant Period:			From:			2/7/2020			To:			6/30/2020		
Grant/Donation						\$29,750								
		SFY 1		SFY 2		SFY 3		Total		Comments				
Grant Amount:		\$29,750		\$		\$		\$29,750		This grant is being used to help fund a land acquisition. State funds are being used toward this acquisition as well, but there are no match requirements tied to this funding.				
Position Information:			# Positions			Explanation/Comments								
			0											
Additional Comments:														
Department of Finance & Management						[Signature]		(Initial)						
Secretary of Administration						[Signature]		(Initial)						
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office						5/13/20		Date						



STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
1. Agency:	Agency of Natural Resources			
2. Department:	Fish and Wildlife Department			
3. Program:	Land Conservation			
4. Legal Title of Grant:	Lottery Road Wildlife Connectivity land acquisition in Shrewsbury			
5. Federal Catalog #:				
6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:				
Vermont Land Trust 8 Bailey Avenue Montpelier VT 05602				
7. Grant Period:	From:	2/7/2020	To:	6/30/2020
8. Purpose of Grant:				
For the acquisition and long-term management of the Lottery Road Wildlife Connectivity Project.				
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:				
Fish and Wildlife would lose the ability to leverage comitted partner funds for land acquisition.				
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	
Expenditures:	FY 20	FY	FY	Comments
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$29,750	\$	\$	
Grants	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$29,750	\$	\$	
Revenues:				
State Funds:				
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:				
(Direct Costs)	\$	\$	\$	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:				
Grant (source VLT)	\$29,750	\$	\$	
Total	\$29,750	\$	\$	
Appropriation No:	6120000000 (fund 20340)	Amount:	\$29,750	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

		Total	\$29,750
PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION			
11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.			
Appointing Authority Name:		Agreed by: _____ (initial)	
12. Limited Service Position Information:			
	# Positions	Title	
Total Positions			
12a. Equipment and space for these positions:		<input type="checkbox"/> Is presently available.	<input type="checkbox"/> Can be obtained with available funds.
13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT			
I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):	Signature: 		Date: 2/11/20
	Title: Fish and Wildlife Commissioner		
	Signature: 		Date: 02/11/2020
	Title: Secretary, ANR		
14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved:	(Secretary or designee signature) 		Date: 3/18/2020
15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted	(Governor's signature) 		Date: 5/11/20
<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected			
16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED			
Required GRANT Documentation			
<input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget		<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any) <input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable)	
End Form AA-1			
(*) The term "grant" refers to any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of value to be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or other part of state government (see 32 V.S.A. §5).			

Department of Fish and Wildlife
1 National Life Dr., Davis 2 Building
Montpelier, VT 05620-3708
www.vtfishandwildlife.com

[phone] 802-505-0561
[fax] 802-828-1250

Agency of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

To: Jaye Pershing Johnson, Governor's Legal Counsel

From: Jane Lazorchak, Public Land Section Chief

Date: January 22, 2020

RE: Governor's Approval Needed for a 527-acre Acquisition in Shrewsbury to create a new Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Enclosed is an approval to be signed by Governor Scott for the acquisition of 527-acres from the Hidalgo LLC located in Shrewsbury. These 527 acres make up much of a significant wildlife corridor and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department plans to create a new WMA as a result. The WMA will protect an area important to the Shrewsbury community for wildlife-based recreation. This is memorialized by the townspeople raising \$85,000 towards the project. Total costs for this project are approximately \$435,000 for acquisition and legal fees.

Funding for this acquisition will come from private contributions, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Habitat Stamp Fund. Included with the Governor's approval memo are maps of the property and a copy of the review and approval by the Agency. Department staff met with the town of Shrewsbury on November 20th where they supported this acquisition. A copy of the town support from the Shrewsbury Select Board is enclosed.

Please review and respond within three weeks from receiving the documents if possible. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me directly at 505-0561 or at jane.lazorchak@vermont.gov, thank you.

cc: Louis Porter, Commissioner
Mark Scott, Director of Wildlife



Department of Fish and Wildlife
Commissioner's Office
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2 Building
Montpelier VT 05620-3208
802-828-1454

TO: Philip B. Scott, Governor

THROUGH: Julie Moore, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources

FROM: Louis Porter, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife

SUBJECT: Acquisition of a 527-acre property in Shrewsbury to create a new Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Recommendation: Approve the acquisition of the 527-acre Hidalgo property in Shrewsbury to create a new WMA to conserve a significant wildlife corridor, upland habitats, and public access for wildlife-based recreation.

Description

The 527-acre Hidalgo property falls within an area mapped by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) as a highest ecological priority and one that is critical for maintaining ecological function within Vermont (See Exhibit 1). The area's designation as "highest priority" land can be contributed to several factors:

- The parcel falls within a "highest priority" connectivity block, meaning that it is an essential part of a habitat network that extends throughout the northeast. Connectivity blocks are critical for those animals that maintain large home ranges (bear, bobcat, etc.), and they also provide pathways that allow numerous plant and animal species to shift their ranges with changing environmental conditions.
- Only one additional piece would need to be acquired by the Department to complete the conservation of this connectivity block linking it to federal and state conservation lands.
- The parcel has been identified as a "highest priority representative physical landscape." In other words, it is one of the highest quality examples in Vermont of lands containing a particular combination of physical features.
- There is an area identified as a vernal pool on the parcel. Vernal pools provide essential habitat to several types of amphibians, and they are important for numerous other species.
- There are two small wetlands on the property. Wetlands provide important habitat for many Vermont species and are responsible for maintaining other ecological functions.
- In addition to the factors above that contribute to its rank as "highest priority" on the Vermont Conservation Design map, the property falls within a block of priority interior forest.

The parcel's main attribute for ownership by the VFWD is its role in maintaining wildlife connectivity in the area. The parcel, while not huge, is also large enough that if owned by the state could provide other values to the public. It is currently used a lot for hunting, wildlife watching and walking. The property is also bordered by the Appalachian Trail and provides the scenic backdrop for hikers.

In addition to the heightened awareness of the ecological features on the property, the project is supported by a local citizen group making it feel like the right time to consider conservation and VFWD ownership. The local group was motivated by the landowner's attempt to develop the property in recent years. As such, they committed to helping fundraise for the project and raised \$85,000 which was donated through the habitat stamp. The project is also supported by the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). VLT has committed \$50,000 in funding to this project which was left over from another Shrewsbury project. The remainder of the funding will come from United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The total project costs are roughly \$435,000, with a purchase price of \$420,000.

Need and Cost

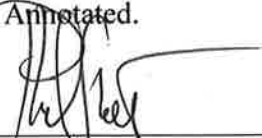
The Department is acquiring this property to provide permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and conservation of significant wildlife habitats. The estimate set for the total project costs is \$435,000 for acquisition and legal costs. Funding for this project will come from the private donations, the habitat stamp and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Your approval of this acquisition is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144, which states in part "The secretary with approval of the Governor may acquire for the use of the State by gift, purchase, or lease in the name of the State, lands, ponds, or streams, and hunting and fishing rights and privileges in any lands or waters in the State, with necessary rights of ingress or egress to and from such lands and waters." This project has been reviewed and approved by the Agency (See Exhibit 2). In addition, the town of Shrewsbury supports this project as approved at their November 20th Select Board Meeting (See Exhibit 3).


APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF LANDS

We the undersigned, hereby approve the acquisition of the 527-acre-acre Hidalgo property to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect public access and the natural resources located in Shrewsbury, VT. This approval is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.


5/11/20
Date


Philip B. Scott
Governor
State of Vermont




04/24/20
Date


Julie Moore
Secretary
Agency of Natural Resources

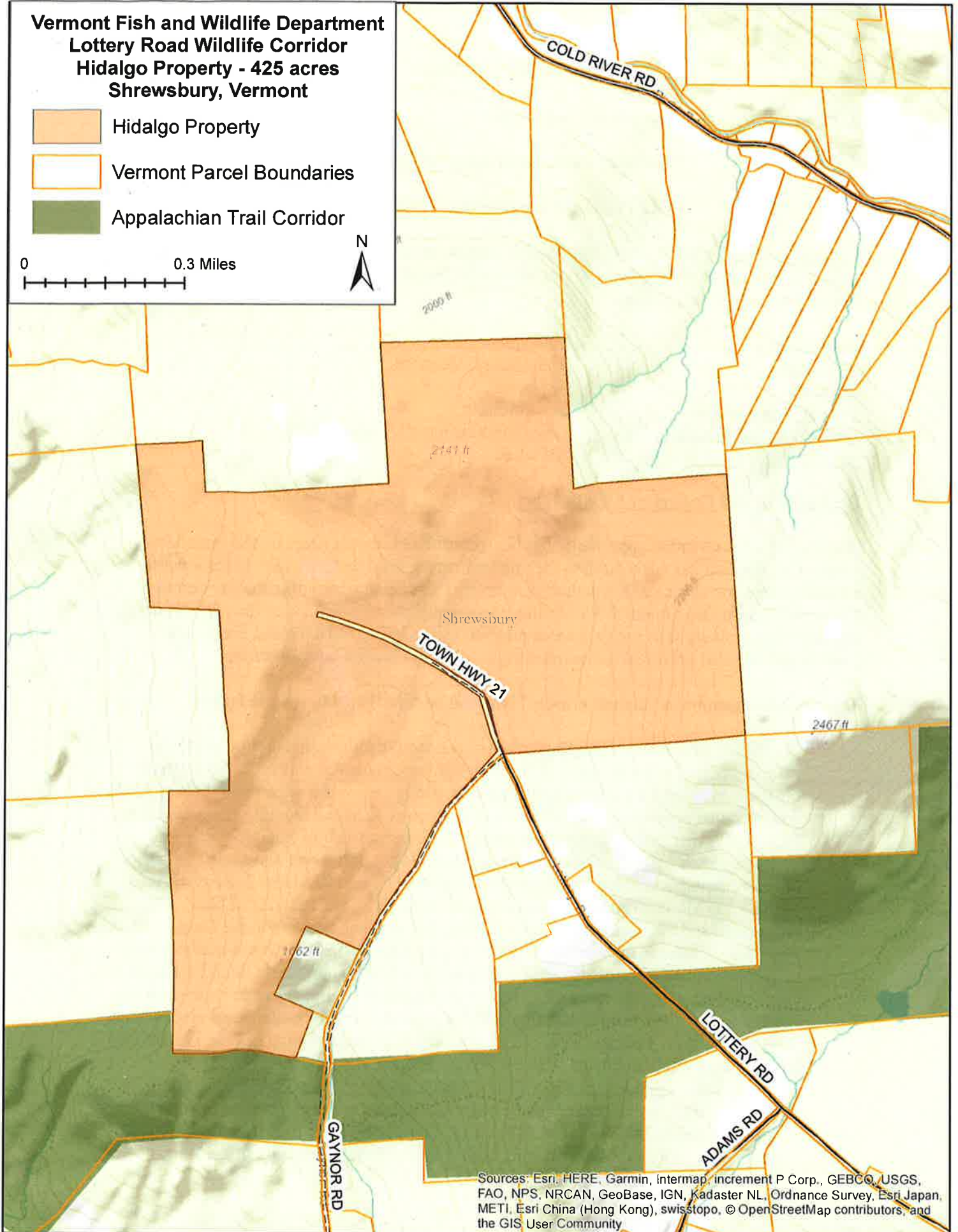
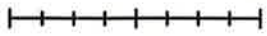
1/23/20
Date


Louis Porter
Commissioner
Fish and Wildlife Department

**Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
Lottery Road Wildlife Corridor
Hidalgo Property - 425 acres
Shrewsbury, Vermont**

-  Hidalgo Property
-  Vermont Parcel Boundaries
-  Appalachian Trail Corridor

0 0.3 Miles



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

MEMORANDUM

TO: Julie Moore, Secretary
FROM: Jane Lazorchak, Land Acquisition Coordinator
SUBJECT: Conservation of the Hildalgo Property in Shrewsbury

Recommendation: Start a new Wildlife Management Area focused around the Hildalgo property located in Shrewsbury to protect a significant wildlife corridor and public access for wildlife-based recreation.

<u>Landowner:</u>	Hildalgo
<u>Location:</u>	Shrewsbury, Vermont
<u>Acreage:</u>	527 acres
<u>Type of Acquisition:</u>	Fee Purchase
<u>Recommended Funding:</u>	Local fundraising, VLT and VHCB
<u>Approximate Cost of Project:</u>	\$300,000

Background and Ecological Significance:

The Hildalgo conservation opportunity has been considered several times by the state for ownership. While it has never risen to the top, there are several factors which make it worth reconsidering now. Monica Przyperhart, a Wildlife Technician who works for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD), has documented the significance of the parcel most recently. The property falls within an area mapped by the VFWD as a highest ecological priority and one that is critical for maintaining ecological function within Vermont.

The area's designation as "highest priority" land can be contributed to several factors:

- The parcel falls within a "highest priority" connectivity block, meaning that it is an essential part of a habitat network that extends throughout the northeast. Connectivity blocks are critical for those animals that maintain large home ranges (bear, bobcat, etc.), and they also provide pathways that allow numerous plant and animal species to shift their ranges with changing environmental conditions or to allow genetic exchange between populations. This habitat network extends not only north and south along the Green Mountains but also south into the Hudson Highlands of Massachusetts, west to the Taconic Mountains and Adirondacks, east to the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Blue Mountains of Maine, and north all the way to the Gaspé Peninsula of Canada (as identified by the Staying Connected Initiative, a public/private collaboration of State Agencies and conservation NGOs in northeast US and southern Canada). This connectivity block is ranked as "highest priority" because it provides an eco-regionally significant link in this wildlife network. Only one additional piece would need to be acquired by the Department to complete the conservation of this connectivity block linking it to federal and state conservation lands.
- The parcel has been identified as a "highest priority representative physical landscape." In other words, it is one of the highest quality examples in Vermont of lands containing a particular combination of physical features. Conserving these highest priority physical landscapes is a method of maintaining high species diversity throughout the state.

- There is an area identified as a likely vernal pool on the parcel. While it has not yet been confirmed, vernal pools provide essential habitat to several types of amphibians, and they are important for numerous other species.
- There are two small wetlands on the property. Wetlands provide important habitat for many Vermont species and are responsible for maintaining other ecological functions.

In addition to the factors above that contribute to its rank as "highest priority" on the Vermont Conservation Design map, the property falls within a block of priority interior forest. Much of the land has been identified as deer wintering area. However much of that has been removed from harvesting. The parcel's main attribute for ownership by the VFWD is its role in maintaining wildlife connectivity in the area. The parcel, while not huge, is also large enough that if owned by the state could provide other values to the public. It is currently used a lot for hunting, wildlife watching and walking. The property is also bordered by the Appalachian Trail.

In addition to the heightened awareness of the ecological features on the property, the project is supported by a local citizen group making it feel like the right time to consider conservation in the form of state ownership. The group is motivated by the landowner's attempt to develop the property in recent years. As such, they are committed to helping fundraise for the project. The project is also supported by the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). VLT has between \$50-100,000 in funding committed to a Shrewsbury project which they are willing to contribute to this acquisition. The remainder of the funding would need to come from a grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. VFWD will take the lead on the project because of the wildlife values on the property and the history of use by our traditional constituents.

APPROVAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSERVATION PROJECT

I hereby approve the acquisition of the 527-acre Hildalgo property in Shrewsbury, Vermont. This approval authorizes Department staff to pursue the development of this project and does not supersede other requirements, statutory, regulatory, procedural or policy, for the State of Vermont to accept interest in real property (e.g., Governor Approval).

01/28/19
Date



Julie Moore, Secretary
Agency of Natural Resources

TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

**9823 Cold River Rd
Shrewsbury, VT 05738**

802-492-3511 Voice /Fax
shrewsburyclerk@vermontel.net

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Dear Ms. Lazorchak,

After reading your letter that summarized the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's (VFWD) involvement and discussing the project further at our Select Board meeting on December 4, 2019, we are writing to inform you that the Town of Shrewsbury does not oppose the VFWD's involvement in the acquisition of the 527-acre Hidalgo property in the town of Shrewsbury to develop a new Wildlife Management Area. More specifically, the Town does not oppose the VFWD acquiring the property to conserve the natural resource values on the property and public access for all wildlife-based recreation. Thank you for meeting with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bert Potter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bert" being more prominent than the last name "Potter".

**Bert Potter
Chair of the Shrewsbury Select Board**



Vermont Land Trust

CONSERVING LAND FOR THE FUTURE OF VERMONT

8 Bailey Avenue
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-5234
(802) 223-4223 fax
(800) 639-1709 toll-free
www.vlt.org

REGIONAL OFFICES

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Northeast Kingdom
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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-6089

Southeast Vermont
and Mountain Valley
54 Linden Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
(802) 251-6008

Southwest Vermont
and Mettowee Valley
10 Furnace Grove Road
Bennington, VT 05201
(802) 442-4915

February 7, 2020

Jane Lazorchak, Public Land Section Chief
Fish & Wildlife Department
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05602

Re: Lottery Road Wildlife Connectivity Project acquisition in Shrewsbury

Dear Ms. Lazorchak:

As we have agreed, Vermont Land Trust is prepared to transfer up to \$29,750 to the Fish & Wildlife Department for the acquisition and long-term management by the State of Vermont of the Lottery Road Wildlife Connectivity Project. These funds may only be used for this acquisition and are not be available for any other use.

Thank you for your excellent partnership and eventually spearheading this extremely worthy acquisition.

Sincerely,

Donald Campbell
Southwest Regional Director

CC: Allison Dudley, CFO