

Route 6 Land Transferred to Town

On September 6 the Board of Selectmen voted to accept a deed from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation that transfers to the Town of Bolton about 154 acres of land along the corridor once proposed for the location of a new Route 6 expressway. The DOT transferred the land after determining that building a new expressway is not in the State's long or short term highway plans and that ownership of the properties "best resides" with the towns along the corridor. Andover and Coventry received similar deeds for land in those towns.

The DOT's deed requires that the properties be open to the public and used for "open space purposes", which include parks, trails, hiking, bird watching and similar passive recreation. The Town may put up interpretive signs and build informational kiosks, parking areas and composting or other non-permanent sanitary facilities. Prohibited under the terms of the deed are permanent structures, playing fields, clearing existing vegetation unless included in a forest management plan and the use of motorized recreational vehicles.

The DOT kept a portion of the corridor near the intersection of Route 44 and Route 6 in anticipation of eventually redesigning that interchange.

No decision has been made about how the Bolton land will be used, but officials from the three towns and representatives from the Capital Region Council of Governments agree that the approximately 7-mile corridor is an asset to the entire region and its long term use should be determined on a regional basis. Bolton officials plan to work collaboratively with the other towns, using Bolton's Plan of Conservation and Development, the Route 6 Hop River Corridor Economic Development Strategy and Master Plan Study and the Route 6 Hop River Corridor Transportation Study as planning tools.

The deed and related maps of the corridor are available for review in the Town Hall. Contact Administrative Officer Joyce Stille (Joyce.Stille@boltonct.org) or Director of Community Development Patrice Carson (patrice.carson@boltonct.org) for more information.