



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF ENERGY AND PLANNING
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MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
GOVERNOR

January 30, 2015

ORIGINAL

Charles Moser, Chairman
Mason Board of Selectmen
16 Darling Road-Mann House
Mason NH 03048

FILED
SECRETARY OF THE
CONSERVATION
2015 FEB 11 A 11:11
OFFICE OF ENERGY
AND PLANNING
COMMISSION

RE: Town of Mason Spaulding Brook Conservation Area (aka Fletcher) and Doonan CE Properties
Northeast Energy Direct Project, FERC Docket No. PF 14-22

Dear Mr. Moser:

It has come to our attention that the natural gas pipeline route, proposed by the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP) in their recent FERC Pre-Filing, proposes to cross the Town's Doonan Conservation Easement property and its Spaulding Brook Conservation Area (a.k.a. Fletcher Parcel). As you may be aware, these two conservation properties were acquired through the State's Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) and, as such, the State maintains an interest in these lands to ensure that its conservation investment is protected. Attached is a copy of the Town of Mason Conservation Project Description from the LCIP Final Report, which provides additional background information about these properties. More information about the LCIP program is also available at <http://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/programs/clsp/index.htm>.

The lands and interests in lands (such as easements) acquired through the LCIP are held in public trust and by law, the sale, transfer, conveyance, or release of any such land or interest in land from public trust is prohibited. In addition, there may be land use restrictions contained in the deeds of these conservation properties that could be in conflict with construction of a pipeline. We hope to work with the Town of Mason and TGP to ensure that impacts to these conservation lands are avoided or mitigated.

We request that our office be included in any discussions between the Town of Mason and TGP and copied on any correspondence that relates specifically to these two conservation properties.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tracey Boisvert, Program Director
Conservation Land Stewardship Director

Enclosure: Town of Mason Conservation Project Description from LCIP Final Report

cc: Mary Maloney, Assistant Attorney General, DOJ
Mason Conservation Commission
Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.
✓FERC

MASON LOCAL LAND CONSERVATION GRANT

Three parcels were protected in the Town of Mason's local land conservation project: Fletcher property was targeted for protection and parcels owned by Doonan and Stewart provided local match. In total, 247.6 acres of land in Mason were protected at a cost to LCIP of \$146,000 in December, 1991. These three properties protect important scenic, habitat, and recreational resources in town.

H.E. Fletcher Liquidating Trust Parcel

The 163.3 acre Fletcher land helps to protect Spaulding Brook Pond, a 20 acre beaver flowage area and neighboring downstream wetlands. The land is located on the eastern side of Starch Mill Road and the western side of Mitchell Hill Road approximately 5 miles northeast of the center of Mason. The parcel consists of undeveloped wooded land. Woodland trails on the Fletcher land lead to the pond, providing access to this very scenic and productive wildlife habitat area. The property has a history of careful woodlot stewardship and sustains fine pine and mixed hardwood timber stands.

The Town of Mason has named the Fletcher property the Spaulding Brook Pond Conservation Land, because of the large beaver pond on Spaulding Brook, which is

the outstanding natural feature of the property. They also plan to manage the property for timber and wildlife habitat. For access, the Town plans to build a small parking area by the road on the Fletcher land and to maintain and sign foot trails through the property.

Because of this project, new opportunities to create greenways and to link existing trails now exist.

The parcel was appraised at \$150,000 (July, 1991). The Town contributed \$4,000 and the LCIP contributed \$146,000 toward the purchase price of this parcel.

Doonan Parcel

Kenneth Doonan donated a conservation easement on 12.5 acres of woodland on Starch Mill Road in Mason. Located approximately 5 miles northeast of the center

SUMMARY INFORMATION MASON

FLETCHER PARCEL

GRANTOR: H.E. Fletcher Company Liquidating Trust
GRANTEE: Town of Mason
ACRES: 163.3
DATE ACQUIRED: 12-16-91
INTEREST ACQUIRED: Fee Simple
TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE: \$146,000.
BOOK/ PAGE NUMBER OF DEED CONVEYED: 5301/868
PLAN RECORDED: 25534

STEWART PARCEL

GRANTOR: Theodore Stewart, Jr.
GRANTEE: Town of Mason
ACRES: 71.8
DATE ACQUIRED: 12-16-91
INTEREST ACQUIRED: Conservation Easement
TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE: Donation
BOOK/ PAGE NUMBER OF DEED CONVEYED: 5301/883
PLAN RECORDED: 25535

DOONAN PARCEL

GRANTOR: Kenneth Doonan
GRANTEE: Town of Mason
ACRES: 12.5
DATE ACQUIRED: 12-16-91
INTEREST ACQUIRED: Conservation Easement
TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE: Donation
BOOK/ PAGE NUMBER OF DEED CONVEYED: 5301/874
PLAN RECORDED: 25534

of Mason, this parcel helps to protect Spaulding Brook Pond and the abutting Fletcher parcel. The topography of the site is mostly gently rolling with some steep slopes. The parcel contains 250' frontage on Starch Mill Road and the rear half of the site abuts the pond. There is a electrical transmission easement which runs through the site and over Starch Mill Road. The parcel has been maintained for timber.

The Doonan easement, valued at \$15,000, helped to make the Town's matching contribution for LCIP funds.

Stewart Parcel

The 71.8 acre parcel owned by Theodore Stewart, Jr., is located on a designated Town scenic road. The easement helps protect the scenic, undeveloped frontage along this road, as well as over 1000 feet of frontage on the abutting Town-owned Railroad Trail. Mr. Stewart donated the easement on this property, valued at \$113,000, as part of the match.

Located about 5 miles north of the Townsend, MA, town line and 3 miles south of the center of Mason, it is located off Route 123 (Valley Road), the main road through Mason. The 71.8 acres consist of two tracts--roughly one-third on the south side of Jackson Road and two-thirds on the north side of Jackson Road.

Topography is sloping toward the railroad trail. The property is wooded with some wetlands along the northern boundary.

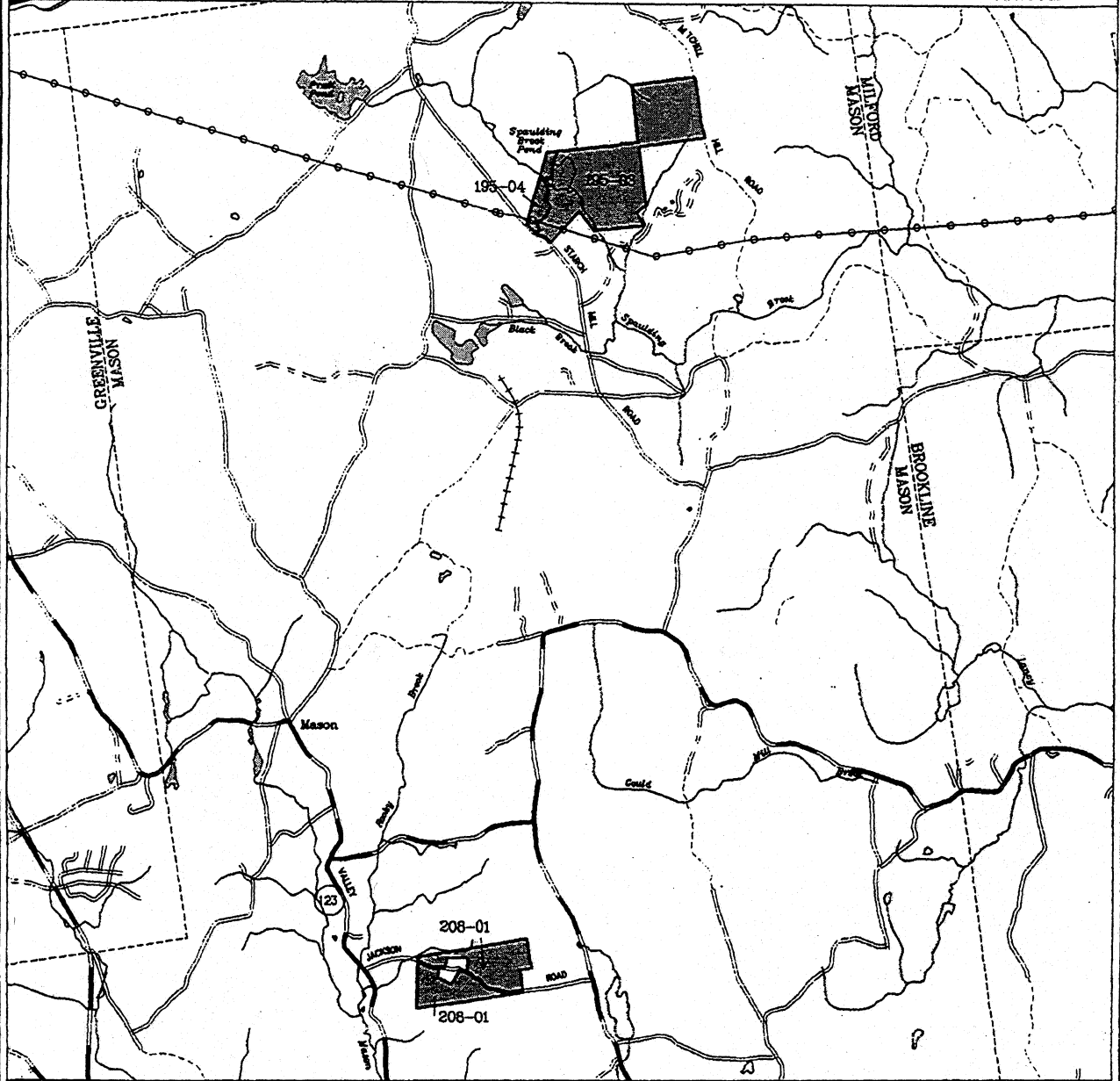
In addition to the Town's \$4,000 toward this project, \$15,000 was raised to cover appraisal and survey costs .

Printed by the Land Conservation Investment Program, c/o 2-1/2 Beacon Street, Concord, NH 03301 - March, 1993

LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM

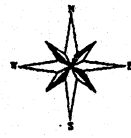
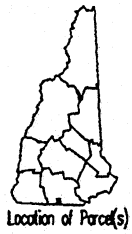
TOWN OF MASON

Mason



PARCEL ID	ACREAGE	GRANTOR
195-03	163.3	H. E. FLETCHER LIQUIDATING TRUST
195-04	12.5	DOONAN (ESMT)
208-01	71.8	STEWART (ESMT)

- LCP parcel
- Other LCP parcels
- State-owned lands
- Surface water
- River or stream
- Town boundary
- County boundary
- State boundary
- Primary route
- Secondary route
- Road or street
- Unimproved road
- Other road
- Trail
- Railroad
- Pipeline/transmission line



SCALE 1:48,000
(1 inch = 4000 ft.)

Map by:
Complex Systems Research Center
University of New Hampshire
March, 1995



Document Content(s)

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