



CAPE ANN TRAIL STEWARDS

PO Box 690

Essex, MA 01929

www.capeanntrailstewards.org

Monday, November 9, 2020

Rockport Board of Selectmen
34 Broadway
Rockport, MA 01966

Dear Mr. Mitchell Vieira,

I am writing on behalf of the Cape Ann Trail Stewards to show our support for the permanent protection of Andrews Woods off Phillips and Haven Avenues.

The trails have been in use by neighbors as well as the general public for many years. They are well maintained and promoted for use by the Friends of Andrews Woods.

Together with established public foot paths, the Andrews Woods trails provide a possible connection between the Atlantic Path and the Halibut Point State Park and the Trustees Halibut Point Reservation.

Increasing fragmentation of parcels has led to habitat loss across the Commonwealth, but most particularly in coastal areas.

Andrews Woods is one of the largest parcels in Rockport: of the 4,000 +/- assessor's parcels, only thirty-nine are 15 acres or larger. It is rare to find an open space parcel of this size so close to the shoreline.

Many of Rockport's larger lots are already owned by conservation organizations such as Mass Audubon, The Trustees of Reservations or the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Andrews Woods is one of only fifteen large lots that are not protected for public use.

We fully support the permanent protection of Andrews Woods.

Sincerely,

Kate Dardinski, Executive Director
Cape Ann Trail Stewards

Helping protect, maintain and expand Cape Ann's trail network