



RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

34 Broadway

Rockport, MA 01966

rightsofway@rockportma.gov

October 26, 2020

Ruth George, Chair
Rockport Board of Selectmen

Dear Ruth and Members of the Board,

In March of 2010, former Rights of Way Committee Chair Phyllis Krenn wrote eloquently in support of preserving Andrews Woods by placing it under the Conservation Commission as conservation land. (See her letter attached.) Today, over ten years later, Andrews Woods is still vulnerable to sale and development, and the drive to preserve it as open space is now more urgent, as environmental and other threats increase.

Earlier this year, the Rights of Way Committee attended a meeting of the Conservation Commission to once again voice our strong support for saving Andrews Woods. Now we direct our support to the Board of Selectmen.

As you may know, Andrews Woods has been used for decades by neighbors and residents from all parts of town for recreation and enjoyment of nature. These woods are a place where people can go exploring on easy terrain without fear of getting lost. They also serve as an important link to other nearby trails, including the Atlantic Path, which together, allow people to experience the very different environments of woodlands and seashore all within a very short distance, and without walking on roads. This woods-to-sea trail network is a unique asset for our Town and should be preserved.

Over the past decade, the Rights of Way Committee has often worked in partnership with the Friends of Andrews Woods to bring volunteers together to clear and maintain the trails, on Earth Day and other times of year. Already, the two groups have demonstrated their shared commitment to serve as good stewards of Andrews Woods for the long term.

With the proper stewardship of Andrews Woods assured, we urge the Board of Selectmen to support the attached request of the Conservation Commission to transfer this land to the Commission, so that it will forever remain a place for recreation and enjoyment of nature within our Town.

Thank you.

Nathan W. Ives,
Chair, Rights of Way Committee

cc: Rockport Conservation Commission
Friends of Andrews Woods