

Readington Township - Open Space Preservation Update – Nov. 18 2019

Cushetunk Mountain – Lorenzen Acquisition (30 Acres)

Readington Township's Open Space Advisory Board announces that the existing Holland Brook Headwaters natural area (306 acres) has been expanded by approximately 30 acres with the addition of two forested parcels on the eastern ridge of Cushetunk Mountain. The two parcels protect a beautiful forest, preserve habitat for endangered species and provide water quality protection. The Holland Brook Headwaters trailhead and the forested Lorenzen parcel are shown below.



The 8 acre parcel is opposite the grassland fields, butterfly meadows and trails of the existing Holland Brook Headwaters Natural Area on Dreahook Road. This new parcel will allow trails in a mature forest while the 22 acre parcel is next to preserved State lands, buffering the State Round Valley ridge loop trail, with mountainous terrain and protecting a core forest area of exceptional value.

Funding was provided by the Transco Pipeline Company which compensated Readington Twp. for trees cut on municipal parcels during their pipeline upgrade project in 2015. The funds were expressly allocated to protect forested lands for natural resource protection. Both parcels were identified as existing forest in Vermeule's forest map of 1900 and contain some of the oldest trees found in Readington Township which was then largely agricultural with limited forests.

Juergen Huelsebusch, Chair, Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board