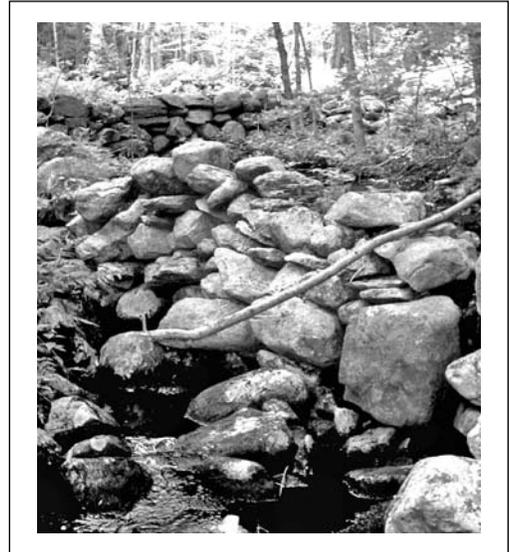
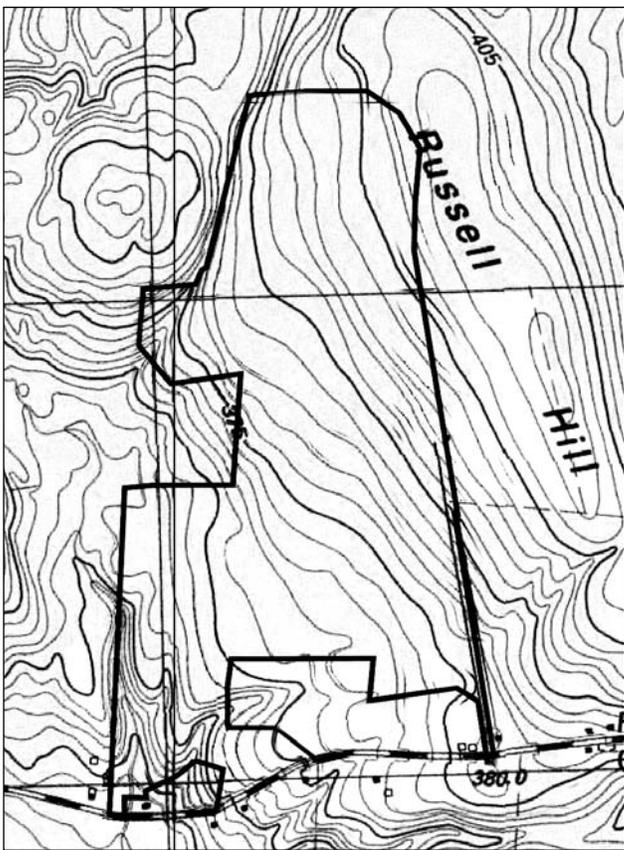


Russell Hill

200 +/- acres



Project Costs and Credits –

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Purchase Price: (approx.) | | \$700,000 |
| State Self-Help Grant Award | 200,000 | |
| Land & Water Fund Grant Award | 300,000 | anticipated |
| Donations Awarded to Date | 6,000 | |
| Donations Pledged | 200,000 | |

The 2 land trusts have already raised funds to cover the remaining costs, i.e. appraisals, attorney fees, etc.

The only cost to Ashburnham will be the interest on the loan which will be needed while we await reimbursement from the DCS.



ARTICLE 10: excerpts

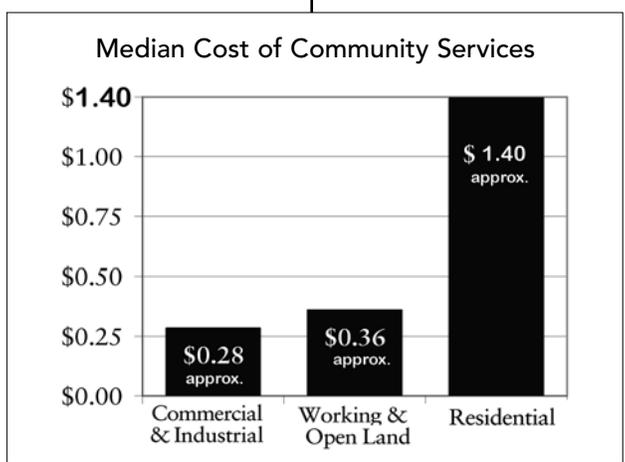
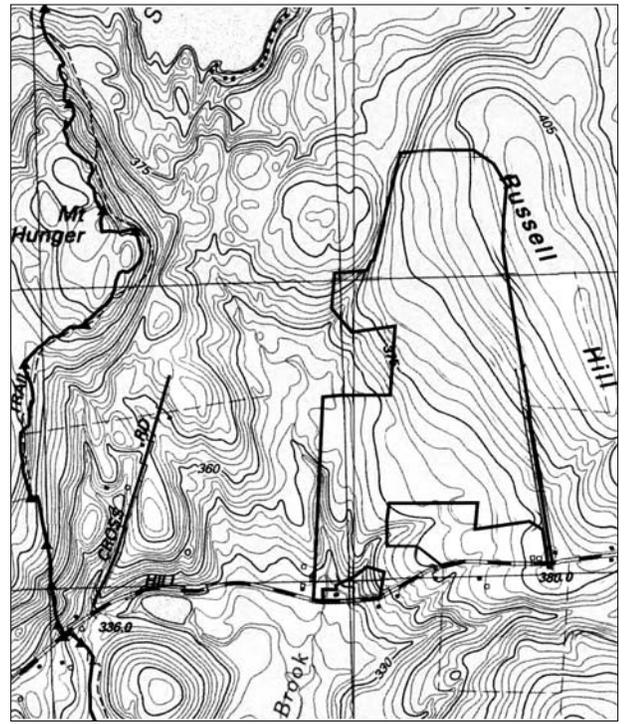
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by borrowing, in accordance with MGL Ch. 44 section 8c or otherwise as permitted by the General Laws, a sum of money to acquire by purchase or otherwise as provided by law and including any and all engineering, legal and other costs of such acquisition and related conveyances, for conservation and passive outdoor recreation purposes, certain property located on Russell Hill Road in the Town of Ashburnham, consisting of approximately 180 acres.....

.... and to authorize the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend any and all grants, and/or reimbursement available for such acquisition, including but not limited to any reimbursement pursuant to G.L. c. 132A, Sec. 11 and to authorize the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen to grant a conservation or similar restriction....



Key Points

- **Alternate route/spur for the Midstate Trail:**
As development eliminates sections of the trail we need to secure lands which can not be removed from public access. Re-routing of the trail has been necessary in the past & as lands become developed we're running out of options to keep the trail open.
- **Walking/Skiing/Biking trails:**
A recent study of economic growth potential for Ashburnham suggests that "we stick with what we have" and considers a *recreation economy* our most viable source for future economic development.
- **Forestry:**
Would provide income, that could be used to finance its own stewardship needs and be applied to future conservation projects. This is much better than the proceeds from 61a land (about 8%), the town would get ALL of the proceeds from all future managed forestry activities.
- **Historic Preservation:**
This parcel retains the same native characteristics it had when it was owned by the historic Adam's family in the 1700's.
- **Water quality protection and flood prevention in the larger downstream watershed:**
Several streams flow in to Brown Brook, a feeder stream to Phillips Brook that leads to the Nashua River, one out of the three watersheds fed from Ashburnham headwaters. Slower infusion of rain and snow melts allows water to enter the water table and replenish our lakes, ponds, private wells, public reservoirs and treasured wetlands.
- **Partnership/Supporters:**
Town of Ashburnham, Con Com
The Ashburnham Conservation Trust
The Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
– *Division of Conservation Services (DCS)*
– *Self-Help Grant Program*
– *Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund*



Median Cost – per dollar of revenue raised – to provide public services to different land uses.

Source: American Farmland Trust

