



## Belmont Citizens Forum

March 11, 2022

Belmont Select Board  
455 Concord Avenue  
Belmont, MA 02478  
Attn: Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator

Re: Belmont Citizens Forum Land (the "Land")

Dear Select Board Members:

I understand that some questions have been asked about the Belmont Citizens Forum's intentions regarding the disposition of the Land that we own adjoining the MBTA railroad tracks between Belmont Center and the end of Channing Road. I am writing to review the facts relating to our ownership of the Land.

BCF purchased the Land in 2008 for \$77,000. Since then, BCF has paid over \$25,000 for insurance and the removal of fallen trees on neighboring Channing Road properties. We also negotiated an easement, subsequently formalized by DCR, through the French and Mahoney parcel in order to preserve the possibility of a future path along the north side of the Fitchburg Line, facilitating safe and direct access from Belmont Center to Alewife Station and beyond.

As we have previously stated in the BCF Newsletter, the Land was acquired with the hope that it might allow the establishment of a public bicycle and pedestrian path in Belmont. Needless to say, BCF is gratified to see that vision come to fruition. We are pleased that the Land will also be used to facilitate the long-needed underground tunnel connecting the Winn Brook neighborhood to the new middle-high school campus and other Town amenities on the south side of the railroad tracks.

I would like to reconfirm to the Select Board that the Forum's intent remains to contribute the Land to the Town, or to such other public body that may be identified by the Town, in order to provide legal ownership, management, and control of the path. For your information, no officer or other individual related to the Forum has or will financially benefit from our ownership or transfer of the Land. Our Board members contribute their time and services without any compensation or other financial benefit.

We look forward to contributing the Land in connection with the realization of the community path and appreciate the support and assistance that the Select Board and so many residents have provided to advance the path to its present state of development.

Very truly yours,

J. Grant Monahon  
President, Belmont Citizens Forum

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