GRANTOR: we are seeking a conservation buyer

currently

GRANTEE: East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc. and Town of Petersham, through its Conservation

Commission

ADDRESS OF PREMISES: 186 East Street,

Petersham

FOR GRANTOR'S TITLE SEE: Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Book _____, Page _____.

GRANT OF CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

I. STATEMENT OF GRANT

[Enter Grantor name(s), marital status if applicable, address, County (and state or country if not in MA)], being the [enter ownership – sole, joint, etc...] owner of the Premises as defined herein, constituting all of the owner(s) of the Premises as defined herein, for my successors and assigns ("Grantor"), acting pursuant to Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, grant, with QUITCLAIM COVENANTS, to the primary grantee East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc., a Massachusetts charitable organization, with an address of 120 Ridge Road, P.O. Box 5, Hardwick, MA 01037, and secondary grantee Town of Petersham, acting by and through its Conservation Commission by authority of Section 8C of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws their permitted successors and assigns ("Grantee"), for less than one hundred dollars consideration, IN PERPETUITY AND EXCLUSIVELY FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES, the following Conservation Restriction on land located in Petersham containing the entirety of a 22.5-acre parcel of land ("Premises"), which Premises is more particularly described in Exhibit A¹ and shown in the attached reduced copy of a survey plan in Exhibit B², both of which are incorporated herein and attached hereto. As used herein, the terms "Grantee" and Grantees" shall refer to the Primary Grantee and the Secondary Grantee collectively.

Commented [GJ(1]: Type names of Grantor(s), Grantee(s), address of the CR Premises and the Grantor's deed reference(s). If the Grantor will take title to the Premises immediately prior to recording the CR, leave the deed references blank and write in the recording information befor recording the CR

 $^{^1}$ The Legal Description of a CR must contain metes and bounds measurements pursuant to MGL c. 184 s. 26(c) — this requirement can be satisfied with a narrative metes and bounds description OR with a reference to a recorded plan that contains metes and bounds measurements. When using a plan, identify the following: the name or label for the pertinent parcel or CR area, the title of the plan, etc.

² If a recorded plan is being used as the legal description, attach a reduced copy of the recorded plan in Exhibit B. The CR area and any excluded areas or building envelopes must be clearly marked.

II. PURPOSES:

This Conservation Restriction is defined in and authorized by Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws and otherwise by law. The purposes of this Conservation Restriction ("Purposes") are to ensure that the Premises will be maintained in perpetuity in its natural, scenic, or open condition and available for agricultural and forestry use, and to prevent any use or change that would materially impair the Conservation Values (as defined below).

[Conservation Partnership] The Conservation Restriction was acquired utilizing, in part, assistance from the Conservation Partnership program which requires, pursuant to Section 2A of Chapter 286 of the Acts of 2014, the conveyance of this Conservation Restriction.

The Conservation Values protected by this Conservation Restriction include the following:

- Working Farmland and/or Forest Land. The protection of the Premises will ensure that the
 open fields and forests contained on the Premises will be permanently available for
 agriculture and forestry that is consistent with the Purposes.
- Open Space. The Premises contributes to the protection of the scenic and natural character
 of Petersham and the protection of the Premises will enhance the open-space value of these
 and nearby lands. The Premises abuts land already conserved, including the 235-acre Gross
 Farm CR to the south and east and a 70-acre parcel of the Johnson CR to the west.
 Additional neighborhood conservation lands include the Brooks Woodland Preserve,
 Chimney Hill Farm LLC WPR and Phillipston Wildlife Management Area parcels.
- <u>Soils and Soil Health.</u> The Premises includes approximately nine (9) acres of prime or statewide important agricultural soils and thirteen (13) acres of prime forest land soils as identified by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The protection of the Premises will promote healthy soils and healthy soils practices as such terms are defined in Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020, which added definitions of these terms to Section 7A of Chapter 128 of the Massachusetts General Laws.
- <u>Public Access</u>. Public access to the Premises will be allowed within the wooded areas for passive outdoor recreation, education and nature study.
- <u>Biodiversity</u>. The Premises includes areas designated as BioMap Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape for aquatic core and aquatic buffer habitat, as defined by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. BioMap was designed to guide strategic biodiversity conservation in Massachusetts by focusing land protection and stewardship on the areas that are most critical for ensuring the long-term persistence of rare and other native species and their habitats, exemplary natural communities, and a diversity of ecosystems. *BioMap* is also designed to include the habitats and species of conservation concern identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

- <u>Habitat Connectivity and Ecosystem Integrity</u>. The Premises includes areas identified by
 the UMass Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS) as high
 ecological integrity freshwater wetland and aquatic . CAPS measures the ecosystem
 integrity of land and can be used to demonstrate the value of land as having outstanding
 unfragmented habitat value
- Water Quality. Protection of the forested landscape will help maintain high water quality for the cold water fishery in Moccasin Brook and protection of the Quabbin Reservoir water supply;
- Wetlands. The wooded deciduous swamp wetlands on the Premises provide valuable habitat for a diverse array of wildlife species as well as provide the many other public benefits of wetlands protection recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Section 40 of Chapter 131 of the Massachusetts General Laws).
- Indigenous Cultural Landscape. The Premises lies within the traditional hunting grounds
 of the Nipmuc tribe, who were among the Native American tribes present in central
 Massachusetts at the time of colonization. Conservation of the Premises protects the
 intrinsic values of contemporary Indigenous communities within the Commonwealth of
 Massachusetts.

<u>Consistency</u> with <u>Clearly Delineated Federal, State, or Local Governmental Conservation Policy.</u> The Petersham 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan clearly state the goal of protecting its agricultural and forested landscape.

Heritage Landscape Inventory. The Premises is located within a Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Agricultural Heritage Landscape, specifically Petersham's Eastern Agricultural Area, as determined by the DCR Heritage Landscape Inventory of 2011. Heritage Landscapes are vital to the history, character, and quality of life of communities. Heritage landscapes are the result of human interaction with the natural resources of an area, which influence the use and development of land and contain both natural and cultural resources, such as cemeteries, parks, estates, and agricultural properties.

- <u>Historic and Archaeological Resources</u>. Conservation and appropriate management of the Premises has an important public benefit by preserving historic and archeological resources within the Premises, including the former mill site along Moccasin Brook.
- <u>Water Supply</u>. The Premises includes Zone C Surface Water Supply Protection Areas for the Quabbin Reservoir as identified by the MA Departement of Environmental Protection, the protection of which is critical to maintaining the public drinking water supply.

III. PROHIBITED and PERMITTED ACTS AND USES

A. Prohibited Acts and Uses

The Grantor will not perform or allow others to perform the following acts and uses which are prohibited on, above, and below the Premises:

- Structures and Improvements. Constructing, placing, or allowing to remain any temporary or permanent structure including without limitation any building, tennis court, landing strip, mobile home, swimming pool, asphalt or concrete pavement, graveled area, roads, sign, fence, gate, billboard or other advertising, antenna, utilities or other structures, utility pole, tower, solar panel, solar array, conduit, line, septic or wastewater disposal system, storage tank, or dam;
- Extractive Activities/Uses. Mining, excavating, dredging, withdrawing, or removing soil, loam, peat, gravel, sand, rock, surface water, ground water, or other mineral substance or natural deposit, or otherwise altering the topography of the Premises;
- 3. <u>Disposal/Storage</u>. Placing, filling, storing or dumping of soil, refuse, trash, vehicle bodies or parts, rubbish, debris, junk, tree and other vegetation cuttings, liquid or solid waste or other substance or material whatsoever:
- Adverse Impacts to Vegetation. Cutting, removing, or destroying trees, shrubs, grasses or other vegetation;
- Adverse Impacts to Water, Soil, and Other Features. Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, water quality, erosion control, soil conservation, natural habitat, archaeological conservation, or ecosystem function;
- 6. <u>Introduction of Invasive Species.</u> Planting or introducing any species identified as invasive by the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group or identified as invasive in such recognized inventories as the Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Project, the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel, or other such inventories, and any successor list as mutually agreed to by Grantor and Grantee;
- 7. Motor Vehicles. Using, parking, or storing motorized vehicles, including motorcycles, mopeds, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway vehicles, motorboats or other motorized watercraft, snowmobiles, launching or landing aircraft, or any other motorized vehicles, acknowledging that vehicles necessary for public safety (i.e., fire, police, ambulance, other government officials) may have a legal right to enter the Premises;
- 8. <u>Subdivision.</u> Subdividing or conveying a part or portion of the Premises (as compared to conveyance of the Premises in its entirety which shall be permitted), it being the Grantor's and Grantee's intention to maintain the entire Premises under unified ownership;
- Use of Premises for Developing Other Land. Using the Premises towards building or development requirements on this or any other parcel;
- Adverse Impacts to Stone Walls, Boundary Markers. Disrupting, removing, or destroying stone walls, granite fence posts, or any other boundary markers;
- 11. Residential or Industrial Uses. Using the Premises for residential or industrial purposes;

12. Inconsistent Uses. Using the Premises for commercial purposes that are inconsistent with the Purposes or that would materially impair the Conservation Values, or for any other uses or activities that are inconsistent with the Purposes or that would materially impair the Conservation Values.

B. Permitted Acts and Uses

Notwithstanding the Prohibited Acts and Uses described in Paragraph III.A., the Grantor may conduct or permit the following acts and uses on the Premises, provided they do not materially impair the Purposes and/or Conservation Values. In conducting any Permitted Act and Use, Grantor shall minimize impacts to the Conservation Values to ensure any such impairment thereto is not material.

- Vegetation Management. Maintaining vegetation, including pruning, trimming, cutting, and mowing, and removing chipping, piling or burning of brush, all to prevent, control, and manage hazards, disease, insect or fire damage, and/or in order to maintain the condition of the Premises as documented in the Baseline Report (see Paragraph XV.), including the reasonable use or application of pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and fungicides;
- Non-native, Nuisance, or Invasive species. Removing non-native, nuisance, or invasive
 species, interplanting native species, planting climate-resilient species to respond to
 disease and forest health pressures, and controlling species in a manner that minimizes
 damage to surrounding, non-target species and preserves water quality;
- 3. <u>Composting</u>. Stockpiling and composting stumps, trees, brush, limbs, and similar biodegradable materials originating on the Premises, and to import organic materials for composting and use in on-site agricultural practices.;
- 4. <u>Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Improvement.</u> With prior written approval of the Grantee, conducting measures designed to restore native biotic communities, or to maintain, enhance or restore wildlife, wildlife habitat, ecosystem function, or rare or endangered species including planting native trees, shrubs, climate-resilient species and other vegetation;
- 5. Indigenous Cultural Practices. Allowing indigenous peoples to:
 - a. Conduct cultural land ceremonial uses. Cultural practices are defined, for the purposes of this Conservation Restriction, as including traditional spiritual ceremonies, seasonal celebrations, offerings, and cultural, educational, and interpretive programming; and
 - b. Harvest plant-life for traditional cultural practices, using methods which, in the sole judgment of the Grantee, ensure sustainable populations of the harvested species within the Premises, including regrowth and replanting;

Commented [GJ(2]: Practitioners have suggested that an MOU with the particular group(s) engaging in this permitted act/use may be useful in establishing parameters

- 6. <u>Archaeological Investigations</u>. Conducting archaeological activities, including without limitation archaeological research, surveys, excavation and artifact retrieval, but only in accordance with an archaeological field investigation plan, which plan shall also address restoration following completion of the archaeological investigation, prepared by or on behalf of the Grantor and approved in advance of such activity, in writing, by the Massachusetts Historical Commission State Archaeologist (or appropriate successor official) and by the Grantee. A copy of the results of any such investigation on the Premises is to be provided to the Grantee;
- 7. <u>Trails.</u> Maintaining and constructing trails as follows:
 - a. <u>Trail Maintenance</u>. Conducting routine maintenance of trails, which may include widening trail corridors up to twelve (12) feet in width overall, with a treadway up to ten (10) feet in width.
 - b. <u>New Trails</u>. With prior written approval of the Grantee, constructing new trails or relocating existing trails, provided that any construction or relocation results in trails that conform with the width limitations above.
 - c. <u>Trail Features</u>. With prior written approval of the Grantee, constructing bog bridging, boardwalks, footbridges, railings, steps, culverts, benching, cribbing, contouring, or other such features, together with the use of motorized equipment to construct such features;
- 8. <u>Signs</u>. Constructing, installing, maintaining, and replacing signs and informational kiosks with respect to the Permitted Acts and Uses, the Purposes, the Conservation Values, trespass, public access, identity and address of the Grantor, sale of the Premises, the Grantee's interest in the Premises, boundary and trail markings, any gift, grant, or other applicable source of support for the conservation of the Premises;
- 9. Motorized Vehicles. Using motorized mobility assistance devices by persons with mobility impairments, for emergency access and response, to address imminent harm or hazard to human life on the Premises, and the use of motorized vehicles as otherwise permitted herein for other Permitted Acts and Uses, such as but not limited to, Forest Management, Agricultural Activities, trail maintenance and construction and vegetation management;
- 10. Outdoor Passive Recreational and Educational Activities. Hunting and trapping by Grantor, fishing,, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice-skating, nature observation, nature and educational walks and outings, outdoor educational activities, and other non-motorized outdoor recreational and educational activities:

11. Forest Management.

 a. Permitted Activities. Conducting sound silvicultural uses of the Premises, including the right to harvest forest products (as such term may be defined from time to time in Section 1 of Chapter 61 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or successor law) or conduct other forest management activities, reestablish Commented [GJ(3]: For example, "Using motorized vehicles by persons with mobility impairments or as necessary for engaging in Agricultural Activities or Forest Activities as permitted herein.

historic woods roads and establish new woods roads, and the use of motorized vehicles, all as necessary to conduct such activities ("Forestry Activities"), provided that any Forestry Activities are carried out pursuant to a Forest Stewardship Plan (as defined below). All Forestry Activities shall avoid any stone structures or historical and cultural resources and shall prevent damage thereto to the extent feasible. All cutting operations shall be supervised by a licensed forester.

- b. <u>Requirement of a Forest Stewardship Plan.</u> Before any Forestry Activities occur on the Premises, Grantor shall submit a Forest Stewardship Plan to the Grantee, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR") or appropriate successor agency, and to any other required state agencies for their approval. The Forest Stewardship Plan shall:
 - i. be prepared by a forester licensed through DCR and shall follow the "Directions for the Preparation of the Chapter 61 Forest Management Plans and Forest Stewardship Plans" (as such guidelines may be amended by DCR or its successor agency) and such statutes, regulations and directions in effect at the time of the approval of said Forest Stewardship Plan; and
 - iii. include provisions designed to comply with the recommended activities and guidelines and required best management practices established in the Massachusetts Forestry Best Management Practices Manual (Catanzaro, Fish & Kittredge, University of Massachusetts, Amherst & DCR; 2013) and subsequent versions as may be approved by the Massachusetts Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry ("Forestry BMPs"); and
 - address how the Forest Stewardship Plan complies with this Paragraph II.B.10; and
 - be effective for a ten (10) year period and shall be resubmitted once every ten (10) years as necessary if additional Forestry Activities are desired.
- c. <u>Harvesting For Personal Use.</u> The sustainable cutting of trees only for the Grantor's personal use, not to exceed one cords/acre/year or equivalent volume, shall not require a Forestry Plan provided that any such cutting complies with the Forestry BMPs.

12. Agricultural Activities.

- a. <u>Permitted Activities.</u> "Agricultural Activities" are collectively defined as "Animal Husbandry" and "Horticulture," defined below:
 - i. <u>Animal Husbandry.</u> Raising animals, including but not limited to dairy cattle, beef cattle, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, ponies, mules, goats, and bees, for the purpose of using, consuming, or selling such animals or a product derived from such animals in the regular course of business; or when primarily and directly used in a related manner which is incidental thereto and represents a customary and necessary use in

- raising such animals and preparing them or the products derived therefrom for use, consumption, or market.
- ii. Horticulture. Raising fruits, vegetables, berries, nuts, and other foods for human consumption, feed for animals, flowers, trees, nursery or greenhouse products, and ornamental plants and shrubs, all for the purpose of selling such products in the regular course of business; or when primarily and directly used in raising forest products under a Forest Stewardship Plan designed to improve the quantity and quality of a continuous crop for the purpose of using, consuming, or selling these products in the regular course of business; or when primarily and directly used in a related manner which is incidental to those uses and represents a customary and necessary use in raising such products and preparing them for use, consumption, or market.
- b. Requirement to Follow Best Agricultural Practices. Agricultural Activities shall be conducted in a manner consistent with generally accepted best management practices for sustainable farming as those practices may be identified from time to time by appropriate governmental or educational institutions such as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), UMass Extension, Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and the like, (collectively, "Best Agricultural Practices") and in a manner that promotes healthy soils and healthy soil practices, as such terms are defined in Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020, which added definitions of these terms to Section 7A of Chapter 128 of the Massachusetts General Laws ("Healthy Soils and Practices"), and in a manner that does not hinder the ability of future generations to engage in Agricultural Activities on the Premises:
- c. Requirement for a Farm Conservation Plan. Agricultural Activities shall require a farm conservation plan, such as an NRCS Conservation Plan ("Farm Conservation Plan"), prepared for the Premises, and approved in writing by the Grantee. The Farm Conservation Plan shall be developed in accordance with generally-accepted Best Agricultural Practices, and shall, at a minimum, address the following:
 - establish wetland buffers and/or filter strips to prevent adverse impacts to the water quality of existing wetlands and waterways;
 - ii. in the event animal husbandry activities are proposed, establish and govern the type and number of each type of animal unit permitted on the Premises, and analyze the pasturage potential of the Premises and establish and govern the cycling of pasturage, and any other measures necessary to ensure the carrying capacity of the Premises is not exceeded in order to protect water quality, prevent soil erosion, and otherwise protect the Conservation Values; and
 - describe how Agricultural Activities will maximize soil and water conservation, and promote Healthy Soils and Practices.

- d. <u>Agricultural Structures and Improvements</u>. Constructing and maintaining structures and improvements to conduct Agricultural Activities, provided:
 - i. The total footprint (as defined herein) of all permanent structures and any temporary structures (as defined below) that have a roof shall not exceed 40,000 square feet of the total area of the Premises in the aggregate. For the purposes of this Conservation Restriction, the term "footprint" shall mean that measurement encompassing the enclosed ground floor area, as measured from the exterior, at the point of contact with the ground.
 - ii. Grantor must obtain prior written approval from the Grantee for the following improvements:
 - 1. Wells, including but not limited to artesian wells, and any irrigation structures that require subsurface installation;
 - iii. The following improvements are permitted without prior approval from the Grantee:
 - Temporary Structures. Constructing, using, maintaining, repairing, and/or replacing temporary structures and improvements directly related to or in support of Agricultural Activities, including, but not limited to, fencing, hayracks, "runin" shelters or other three-sided shelters, hoop houses (also known as "high tunnels"), and the like. For the purposes of this Conservation Restriction, the term "temporary" shall mean any improvement without a foundation that can be constructed or removed without significant disturbance of the soil;
- e. <u>Agri-tourism</u>. The use of the Premises for "Agri-tourism" activities, which activities shall be defined as ancillary commercial activities and events that support the financial viability of the use of the Premises for Agricultural Activities, which activities shall be limited to farm-based entertainment such as harvest festivals and farm-based education addressing the subjects of sustainable agriculture, food production and nutrition, and/or environmental conservation and ecology; with prior approval of the Grantee, Grantor may host unrelated educational activities such as painting or yoga classes, and the like, and up to four (4) recreational events, weddings, or similar types or scale of events per year, provided that said events shall be incidental and subordinate to the primary use of the Premises for Agricultural Activities.
- f. Fire Management. The use of prescribed fire to promote plant health and soil enrichment in accordance with generally-accepted Best Agricultural Practices.
- 13. Forest Conversion: With the prior written approval of the Grantee, conversion into pasture, meadow or field of wooded portions of the Premises for the purposes of accommodating and instituting Agricultural Activities as defined above, provided that the land clearing is described in a Farm Conservation Plan, approved pursuant to Paragraph III.B.12.c., and that no such clearing or conversion shall take place within

- twenty five feet of any watercourse or wetland; and thereafter, conducting Agricultural Activities on the cleared portions of the Premises in compliance with Paragraph III.B.12.;
- 14. <u>Green Energy.</u> With prior written approval of the Grantee, constructing energy producing structures and associated transmission lines that produce negligible or no pollution or carbon emissions ("Green Energy Structures") to supply power for any Permitted Acts and Uses on the Premises. In addition to the terms of Paragraph III.E., when considering whether to grant approval, the Grantee will take into consideration the energy needs related to the relevant Permitted Act(s) and Use(s). While it is agreed that some power may be fed back into the public power grid during high production periods, such Green Energy Structures shall be limited to a capacity not higher than that necessary to meet, or exceed by up to 20% at the time of installation, the power requirements of the Permitted Acts and Uses;

C. Site Restoration

Upon completion of any Permitted Acts and Uses, any disturbed areas shall be restored substantially to the conditions that existed prior to said activities, including with respect to soil material, grade, and vegetated ground cover.

D. Compliance with Permits, Regulations, Laws

The exercise of any Permitted Acts and Uses under Paragraph III.B. shall be in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, zoning, and permits, and with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The inclusion of any Reserved Right requiring a permit, license or other approval from a public agency does not imply that the Grantee or the Commonwealth takes any position whether such permit, license, or other approval should be issued.

E. Notice and Approval

- Notifying Grantee. Whenever notice to or approval by Grantee is required, Grantor shall notify or request approval from Grantee, by a method requiring proof of receipt, in writing not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date Grantor intends to undertake the activity in question, unless a different time period is specified herein. The notice shall:
 - Describe the nature, scope, design, location, timetable and any other material aspect of the proposed activity;
 - b. Describe how the proposed activity complies with the terms and conditions of this Conservation Restriction, and will not materially impair the Purposes and/or Conservation Values;
 - Identify all permits, licenses, or approvals required for the proposed activity, and the status of any such permits, licenses, or approvals.

d. Describe any other material aspect of the proposed activity in sufficient detail to permit the Grantee to make an informed judgment as to its consistency with the Purposes and Conservation Values.

2. Grantee Review.

Where Grantee's approval is required, the Secondary Grantee, within thirty (30) days of receipt of Grantor's request, shall notify the Primary Grantee of the Secondary Grantee's decision. Within sixty (60) days of the Primary Grantee's receipt of Grantor's request, the Primary Grantee shall either affirm, amend or reverse the decision of the Secondary Grantee, shall notify the Secondary Grantee thereof in writing, and shall issue its decision to the Grantor in writing. The Primary Grantee's decision shall in all cases be the final and controlling decision binding on both Grantees. In the event that no decision is received from the Secondary Grantee within thirty (30) days, the Primary Grantee shall proceed to issue its decision within sixty (60) days of Grantor's request. Grantee's approval shall only be granted upon a showing that the proposed activity will minimize impacts to the Conservation Values and will not materially impair the Purposes and/or Conservation Values. Grantee may require Grantor to secure expert review and evaluation of a proposed activity by a mutually agreed upon party.

3. <u>Resubmittal.</u> Grantee's failure to respond within sixty (60) days of receipt shall not constitute approval of the request. Grantor may subsequently submit the same or a similar request for approval.

IV. INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

A. Entry onto the Premises

The Grantor hereby grants to the Grantee, and its duly authorized agents or representatives, the right to enter the Premises upon reasonable notice and at reasonable times, for the purpose of inspecting the Premises to determine compliance with or to enforce this Conservation Restriction.

B. Legal and Injunctive Relief

1. Enforcement. The rights hereby granted shall include the right to enforce this Conservation Restriction by appropriate legal proceedings and to obtain compensatory relief, including without limitation, compensation for interim losses (i.e., ecological and public use service losses that occur from the date of the violation until the date of restoration and equitable relief against any violations, including, without limitation, injunctive relief and relief requiring restoration of the Premises to its condition prior to the time of the injury (it being agreed that the Grantee will have no adequate remedy at law in case of an injunction). The rights hereby granted shall be in addition to, and not in limitation of, any other rights and remedies available to the Grantee for the enforcement of this Conservation Restriction.

Commented [GJ(4]: Delete this paragraph if the CR has only 1 Grantee

Commented [GJ(5]: Use this paragraph regardless of the number of Grantees

- 2. Notice and Cure. In the event the Grantee determines that a violation of this Conservation Restriction has occurred and intends to exercise any of the rights described herein, the Grantee shall, before exercising any such rights, notify the Grantor in writing of the violation. The Grantor shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of the written notice to halt the violation and remedy any damage caused by it, after which time Grantee may take further action, including instituting legal proceedings and entering the Premises to take reasonable measures to remedy, abate or correct such violation, without further notice. Provided, however, that this requirement of deferment of action for thirty (30) days applies only if Grantor immediately ceases the violation and Grantee determines that there is no ongoing violation. In instances where a violation may also constitute a violation of local, state, or federal law, the Grantee may notify the proper authorities of such violation.
- 3. Reimbursement of Costs and Expenses of Enforcement. Grantor covenants and agrees to reimburse to Grantee all reasonable costs and expenses (including counsel fees) incurred by the Grantee in enforcing this Conservation Restriction or in taking reasonable measures to remedy, abate or correct any violation thereof. In the event of a dispute over the boundaries of the Conservation Restriction, Grantor shall pay for a survey by a Massachusetts licensed professional land surveyor and to have the boundaries permanently marked.
- 4. Coordination between Primary and Secondary Grantee. Whenever there is a question of whether there is a violation of this Conservation Restriction, or how to proceed in addressing the violation, the Primary Grantee shall consult with the Secondary Grantee. The Primary Grantee shall then determine whether there is a violation and how to proceed in addressing the violation. The Primary Grantee's decision shall in all cases be the final and controlling decision binding on both Grantees. In the event that no response is received from the Secondary Grantee within thirty (30) days, the Primary Grantee shall notify Grantor and proceed as provided in Paragraph IV.B.2.

C. Non-Waiver

Enforcement of the terms of this Conservation Restriction shall be at the sole discretion of Grantee. Any election by the Grantee as to the manner and timing of its right to enforce this Conservation Restriction or otherwise exercise its rights hereunder shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver of such rights.

D. Disclaimer of Liability

By acceptance of this Conservation Restriction, the Grantee does not undertake any liability or obligation relating to the condition of the Premises pertaining to compliance with and including, but not limited to, hazardous materials, zoning, environmental laws and regulations, or acts not caused by the Grantee or its agents.

E. Acts Beyond the Grantor's Control

Commented [GJ(6]: Delete this paragraph if the CR has only 1 Grantee

Nothing contained in this Conservation Restriction shall be construed to entitle the Grantee to bring any actions against the Grantor for any injury to or change in the Premises resulting from natural causes beyond the Grantor's control, including but not limited to fire, flood, weather, climate-related impacts, and earth movement, or from any prudent action taken by the Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to the Premises resulting from such causes. In the event of any such occurrence, the Grantor and Grantee will cooperate in the restoration of the Premises, if desirable and feasible.

V. PUBLIC ACCESS

Subject to the provisions of this Conservation Restriction, the Grantor hereby grants access to the wooded portions of the Premises to the general public and agrees to take no action to prohibit or discourage access to and use of the wooded portions of the Premises by the general public, but only for daytime use and only as described in Paragraph III.B.10 provided that such agreement by Grantor is subject to the Grantor's reserved right to establish reasonable rules, regulations, and restrictions on such permitted recreational use by the general public for the protection of the Purposes and Conservation Values. Grantor has the right to control, limit, or prohibit by posting and other reasonable means activities or uses of the Premises not authorized in Paragraph III.B.10. The Grantee may require the Grantor to post the Premises against any use by the public that results in material impairment of the Conservation Values. This grant of public access to the Premises is solely for the purposes described in Section 17C of Chapter 21 of the Massachusetts General Laws and the Grantor and Grantee hereto express their intent to benefit from exculpation from liability to the extent provided in such section.

VI. TERMINATION/RELEASE/EXTINGUISHMENT

A. Procedure

If circumstances arise in the future that render the Purposes impossible to accomplish, this Conservation Restriction can only be terminated, released, or extinguished, whether in whole or in part, by a court of competent jurisdiction under applicable law after review and approval by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or successor official ("Secretary"), and any other approvals as may be required by Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

B. Grantor's and Grantee's Right to Recover Proceeds

If any change in conditions ever gives rise to termination, release, or extinguishment of this Conservation Restriction under applicable law, then Grantee, on a subsequent sale, exchange, or involuntary conversion of the Premises, shall be entitled to a portion of the proceeds in accordance with Paragraph VI.C., subject, however, to any applicable law which expressly provides for a different disposition of the proceeds, and after complying with the terms of any gift, grant, or funding requirements. The Grantee shall use its share of any proceeds in a manner consistent with the Purposes or the protection of the Conservation Values.

C. Grantee's Receipt of Property Right

Commented [GJ(7]: Use one of the following two

Commented [GJ(8]: Update paragraph # as necessary - this should be a reference to the Permitted Act/Use describing Passive Outdoor Recreational Activities

Commented [GJ(9]: Choose one of the following three paragraphs, depending on the particular circumstances, and delete the other two

Grantor and Grantee agree that the conveyance of this Conservation Restriction gives rise to a real property right, immediately vested in the Grantee, with a fair market value that is at least equal to the proportionate value that this Conservation Restriction bears to the value of the unrestricted Premises. The proportionate value of the Grantee's property right will be determined as of the date of termination, release, or extinguishment.

D. Cooperation Regarding Public Action

Whenever all or any part of the Premises or any interest therein is taken by public authority under power of eminent domain or other act of public authority, then the Grantor and the Grantee shall cooperate in recovering the full value of all direct and consequential damages resulting from such action. All related expenses incurred by the Grantor and the Grantee shall first be paid out of any recovered proceeds, and the remaining proceeds shall be distributed between the Grantor and Grantee in accordance with Paragraph VI.B. and Paragraph VI.C. If a less than fee interest is taken, the proceeds shall be equitably allocated according to the nature of the interest taken. The Grantee shall use its share of any proceeds in a manner consistent with the Purposes or the protection of the Conservation Values.

VII. DURATION and ASSIGNABILITY

A. Running of the Burden

The burdens of this Conservation Restriction shall run with the Premises in perpetuity, and shall be enforceable against the Grantor and the successors and assigns of the Grantor holding any interest in the Premises.

B. Execution of Instruments

The Grantee is authorized to record or file any notices or instruments appropriate to assuring the perpetual enforceability of this Conservation Restriction. The Grantor, on behalf of itself and its successors and assigns, appoints the Grantee its attorney-in-fact to execute, acknowledge and deliver any such instruments on its behalf. Without limiting the foregoing, the Grantor and its successors and assigns agree themselves to execute any such instruments upon request.

C. Running of the Benefit

The benefits of this Conservation Restriction shall run to the Grantee, shall be in gross and shall not be assignable by the Grantee, except when all of the following conditions are met:

- 1. the Grantee requires that the Purposes continue to be carried out;
- 2. the assignee is not an owner of the fee in the Premises;
- the assignee, at the time of the assignment, qualifies under and 26.U.S.C. 170(h), and applicable regulations thereunder, if applicable, and is eligible to receive this Conservation Restriction under Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws; and

4. the assignment complies with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, if applicable.

VIII. SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS

A. Procedure for Transfer

The Grantor agrees to incorporate by reference the terms of this Conservation Restriction in any deed or other legal instrument which grants any interest in all or a portion of the Premises, including a leasehold interest and to notify the Grantee not less than twenty (20) days prior to the effective date of such transfer. Any transfers shall receive prior approval by Grantee to assure that the Premises is transferred to a qualified conservation organization. Failure to do any of the above shall not impair the validity or enforceability of this Conservation Restriction. If the Grantor fails to reference the terms of this Conservation Restriction in any deed or other legal instrument which grants any interest in all or a portion of the Premises, then the Grantee may record, in the applicable registry of deeds, or registered in the applicable land court registry district, and at the Grantor's expense, a notice of this Conservation Restriction. Any transfer will comply with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, if applicable.

B. Grantor's Liability

The Grantor shall not be liable for violations occurring after their ownership. Liability for any acts or omissions occurring prior to any transfer and liability for any transfer if in violation of this Conservation Restriction shall survive the transfer. Any new owner shall cooperate in the restoration of the Premises or removal of violations caused by prior owner(s) and may be held responsible for any continuing violations.

IX. ESTOPPEL CERTIFICATES

Upon request by the Grantor, the Grantee shall, within sixty (60) days execute and deliver to the Grantor any document, including an estoppel certificate, which certifies the Grantor's compliance or non-compliance with any obligation of the Grantor contained in this Conservation Restriction.

X. NON MERGER

The parties intend that any future acquisition of the Premises shall not result in a merger of the Conservation Restriction into the fee. The Grantor agrees that it will not grant, and the Grantee agrees that it will not take title, to any part of the Premises without having first assigned this Conservation Restriction following the terms set forth in Paragraph VII.C to ensure that merger does not occur and that this Conservation Restriction continues to be enforceable by a non-fee owner.

XI. AMENDMENT

A. Limitations on Amendment

Grantor and Grantee may amend this Conservation Restriction only to correct an error or oversight, clarify an ambiguity, maintain or enhance the overall protection of the Conservation Values, or add real property to the Premises, provided that no amendment shall:

- 1. affect this Conservation Restriction's perpetual duration;
- 2. be inconsistent with or materially impair the Purposes;
- 3. affect the qualification of this Conservation Restriction as a "qualified conservation contribution" or "interest in land" under any applicable laws, including 26 U.S.C. Section 170(h), and related regulations;
- 4. affect the status of Grantee as a "qualified organization" or "eligible donee" under any applicable laws, including 26 U.S.C. Section 170(h) and related regulations, and Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or
- 5. create an impermissible private benefit or private inurement in violation of federal tax law, as determined by an appraisal, conducted by an appraiser selected by the Grantee, of the economic impact of the proposed amendment; or
- alter or remove the provisions described in Paragraph VI (Termination/Release/Extinguishment); or
- 7. cause the provisions of this Paragraph XI to be less restrictive; or
- 8. cause the provisions described in Paragraph VII.C (Running of the Benefit) to be less restrictive

B. Amendment Approvals and Recording

No amendment shall be effective unless documented in a notarized writing executed by Grantee and Grantor, approved by the Town of Petersham and by the Secretary in the public interest pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and recorded in the applicable registry of deeds or registered in the applicable land court registry district.

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Conservation Restriction shall be effective when the Grantor and the Grantee have executed it, the administrative approvals required by Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws have been obtained, and it has been recorded in the applicable registry of deeds or registered in the applicable land court registry district.

XIII. NOTICES

Any notice, demand, request, consent, approval or communication that either party desires or is required to give to the other shall be in writing and either served personally or sent by first class mail, postage pre-paid, addressed as follows:

To Grantor: Name(s)

Address

Municipality, State, Zip code

To Grantee: East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc. Petersham Conservation Commission

P.O. Box 5 Hardwick, MA 01037 Petersham, MA 01366

or to such other address as any of the above parties shall designate from time to time by written notice to the other or, if notice is returned to sender, to an address that is reasonably ascertainable by the parties.

XIV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Controlling Law

The interpretation and performance of this Conservation Restriction shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

B. Liberal Construction

Any general rule of construction to the contrary notwithstanding, this Conservation Restriction shall be liberally construed in order to effect the Purposes and the policy and purposes of Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws. If any provision in this instrument is found to be ambiguous, any interpretation consistent with the Purposes that would render the provision valid shall be favored over any interpretation that would render it invalid.

C. Severability

If any provision of this Conservation Restriction or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this Conservation Restriction shall not be affected thereby.

D. Entire Agreement

This instrument sets forth the entire agreement of the Grantor and Grantee with respect to this Conservation Restriction and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, understandings, or agreements relating to the Conservation Restriction, all of which are merged herein.

XV. BASELINE DOCUMENTATION REPORT

The Conservation Values, as well as the natural features, current uses of, and existing improvements on the Premises, such as, but not limited to, trails, woods roads, structures, meadows or other cleared areas, agricultural areas, and scenic views, as applicable, are described in a Baseline Documentation Report ("Baseline Report") prepared by Grantee with the cooperation of the Grantor, consisting of maps, photographs, and other documents and on file with the Grantee and included by reference herein. The Baseline Report (i) is acknowledged by Grantor and Grantee to be a complete and accurate representation of the condition and values of the Premises as of the date of this Conservation Restriction, (ii) is intended to fully comply with applicable Treasury Regulations, (iii) is intended to serve as an objective information baseline for subsequent monitoring of compliance with the terms of this Conservation Restriction as described herein, and

(iv) may be supplemented as conditions on the Premise change as allowed over time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties may utilize any evidence of the condition of the Premises at the time of this grant in addition to the Baseline Report.

XVI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Pre-existing Public Rights

Approval of this Conservation Restriction pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws by any municipal officials and by the Secretary, is not to be construed as representing the existence or non-existence of any pre-existing rights of the public, if any, in and to the Premises, and any such pre-existing rights of the public, if any, are not affected by the granting of this Conservation Restriction.

B. Release of Homestead

The Grantor hereby agrees to waive, subordinate, and release any and all Homestead rights pursuant to Chapter 188 of the Massachusetts General Laws it may have in favor of this Conservation Restriction with respect to any portion of the Premises affected by this Conservation Restriction, and hereby agrees to execute, deliver and/or record any and all instruments necessary to effectuate such waiver, subordination and release. In all other respects, the Grantor reserves and retains any and all Homestead rights, subject to this Conservation Restriction, pursuant to Section 10(e) of Chapter 188 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

C. Subordination

The Grantor shall record at the applicable registry of deeds or shall register in the applicable land court registry district simultaneously with this Conservation Restriction all documents necessary to subordinate any mortgage, promissory note, loan, lien, equity credit line, refinance assignment of mortgage, lease, financing statement or any other agreement which gives rise to a surety interest affecting the Premises.

D. Executory Limitation

If either Grantee shall cease to exist or to be qualified to hold conservation restrictions pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or to be qualified organization under 26 U.S.C. 170(h), and applicable regulations thereunder, if applicable, and a prior assignment is not made pursuant to Paragraph VII, then that Grantee's rights and obligations under this Conservation Restriction shall run to the other Grantee. If both Grantees shall cease to exist or to be qualified to hold conservation restrictions pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or to be qualified organization under 26 U.S.C. 170(h), and applicable regulations thereunder, if applicable, and a prior assignment is not made pursuant to Paragraph VII, then the rights and obligations under this Conservation Restriction shall vest in such organization as a court of competent jurisdiction shall direct pursuant to the applicable Massachusetts law and with due regard to the requirements for an assignment pursuant to Paragraph VII.

Commented [GJ(10]: Use one of the following two paragraphs and delete the other

Commented [GJ(11]: Use one of the following two paragraphs and delete the other

E. Prior Encumbrances

This Conservation Restriction shall be in addition to and not in substitution of any other restrictions or easements of record affecting the Premises.

F. The following signature pages are included in this Grant:

Grantor

Grantee Acceptance - East Quabbin Land Trust

Grantee Acceptance – Town of Petersham, by and through its Conservation Commission Approval of Select Board

Approval of the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

G. The following exhibits are attached and incorporated herein:

Exhibit A: Legal Description of Premises

Exhibit B: Reduced Copy of Recorded Plan of Premises

Commented [GJ(12]: If the Grantor is a Trust, a draft Trustee's Certificate or a recorded copy of the Trustee's Certificate should be submitted with the CR for review. We encourage you to check with your registry to determine particular requirements regarding attaching Trustee's

WITNESS my hand and seal thisday o	of, 2025,
, duly [Name of Grantor]	authorized
THE COMMONWE	ALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
County, ss:	
On this day of	, 2025, before me, the undersigned notary
public, personally appeared	, and proved to me
through satisfactory evidence of identification	on which wasto
be the person whose name is signed on the	proceeding or attached document, and acknowledged
to me that s/he signed it voluntarily for its s	tated purpose.
	Notary Public My Commission Expires:

Commented [GJ(13]: If Grantor is a corporation, then pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 155 of the Massachusetts General Law, the President or Vice President AND Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer must sign the CR, so this page will need a second signatory in such an instance.

If only one person will sign on behalf of a corporate entity, then proof of corporate authority, such as a certificate of vot demonstrating that person's authority to act in such capacity on behalf of the corporation, must be provided.

ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT

		on from [GRANTOR] was accepted by the East Quabbin of, 2025.
		By: Judith C. Jones
		Its: President , duly authorized By: George A. Reilly
		Its: Treasurer, duly authorized
	THE COMMON	WEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Worcester Co	ounty, ss:	
On this	_ day of	, 2025, before me, the undersigned notary
public, person	nally appeared	, and proved to me
through satisf	actory evidence of identif	fication which wasto
be the person	whose name is signed or	n the proceeding or attached document, and acknowledged
to me that she signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose.		
		Notary Public My Commission Expires:
	THE COMMON	WEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Worcester Co	ounty, ss:	
On this	day of	, 2025, before me, the undersigned notary
		, and proved to me
		fication which wasto
· ·	•	n the proceeding or attached document, and acknowledged
-	signed it voluntarily for i	

Commented [GJ(14]: To be used if Grantee is a charitable corporation or trust

Notary Public My Commission Expires:

ACCEPTANCE OF TOWN OF PETERSHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

	Conservation
	ing duly held on, 2025, the accept the foregoing Conservation Restriction oter 184 and Section 8C of Chapter 40 of the
Mike S	Seitz
Anne	Cavanaugh
Ann L	ewis
	Woolsey
	Comment
	Conservation thank you
THE COMMONWEALTH O	OF MASSACHUSETTS
W	
Worcester County, ss:	
On this day of	_, 2025, before me, the undersigned notary
public, personally appeared	
	, and
, and proved to me through satisfa	
to be the pers	ons whose names are signed on the proceeding
or attached document, and acknowledged to me	that they signed it voluntarily for its stated
purpose.	
I I I	
	y Public
My Co	ommission Expires:

Commented [GJ(15]: To be used if Grantee is a

Commented [WS(16]: Please insert all names of Conservation Commission Members under signatory lines, thank you

APPROVAL OF TOWN OF PETERSHAM SEL		
We the undersigned, being a majority of the Select Board of the Tow that at a public meeting duly held on		
TOWN OF PETERSHAM SELECT BOARD		
	Susan Dougherty	
	Joshua Cayea	
	Deborah Poodry	Commented [WS(17]: Please insert all names of Sele Board Members under signatory lines, thank you
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHU Worcester County, ss:	USETTS	
On this day of, 2025, before public, personally appeared,		
and, and proved to me throug		
identification which wasto be		
signed on the proceeding or attached document, and acknowledge voluntarily for its stated purpose.		
Notary Public My Commission Expir	res:	

APPROVAL OF SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

The undersigned, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereby approves the foregoing Conservation Restriction from [GRANTOR] to East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc. and the Town of Petersham, by and through its Conservation Commission in the public interest pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Dated:, 2025	Rebecca L Tepper Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs
THE COMMONWEASUFFOLK, ss:	LTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
On this day of	, 2025, before me, the undersigned notary
public, personally appeared Rebecca L Tepp	er, and proved to me through satisfactory evidence of
identification which was	to be the person whose name is
signed on the proceeding or attached docu	ument, and acknowledged to me that she signed it
voluntarily for its stated purpose.	
	Notary Public My Commission Expires:

EXHIBIT A

Legal Description of Premises

Description of the Premises

The land in the Town of Petersham, Worcester, Massachusetts, containing 22 acres, +/-, shown as Parcel 353.1 on a plan of land titled Plan of Land in Petersham Prepared for East Quabbin Land Trust, dated [Insert Plan Date], by [Insert Plan creator/professional land surveyor/company name, address], recorded at [Insert recording information].

[The existing survey plan will be updated to exclude the building area along East Street, and will be a combination of parcel 353 and parcel 353.1]

EXHIBIT B

Reduced Copy of Plan of Premises

For official full size plan see Worcester Registry of Deeds Plan Book _____ Page ____ [This plan will be replaced with an updated version that excludes the building area.]

