



Town of Hardwick
Office of the Zoning and Floodplain Administrator
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July 10, 2025

Hardwick Select Board

Re: Buffalo Mountain Land Acquisition – Planning Commission Support

Dear Select Board Members,

Please accept this letter of support from the Hardwick Planning Commission regarding the Hardwick Conservation Commission's exploration of acquiring the Davis property on Buffalo Mountain. Retention of this property would advance several of Hardwick's long-standing goals in conservation, flood hazard mitigation, and recreation, as articulated in our planning documents.

This proposed acquisition aligns with the following sections of the Hardwick Municipal Plan:

- *"Maintain and enhance the abundance and diversity of game and non-game wildlife in Hardwick." (p. 24)*
- *"Critical wildlife habitat should be protected from development and other uses that threaten the ability of the habitat to support its species." (p. 24)*
- *"Flood plains and upland forested areas that attenuate and moderate flooding and fluvial erosion should be protected and restored." (p. 28)*
- *"Core habitat areas and interconnecting links (e.g. wetland areas, riparian zones, and travel corridors) are to be preserved." (p. 24)*
- *"The town supports the efforts of organizations in the purchase of development rights and other conservation methods provided the land protected meets the objectives of this plan." (p. 22)*
- *"Continue to protect and expand access to local natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities." (Recreation section)*

The proposed exploration of this opportunity complements other flood resilience and conservation efforts across the region. The current Hardwick Town Plan is available at www.hardwickvt.gov.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is needed.

Sincerely,

Kristen Leahy, Zoning & Floodplain Administrator
On behalf of the Hardwick Planning Commission

Town Manager's Office
Town Clerk's Office
Town Highway Department

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Tonia Chase
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