



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Flanders' Conservation of a 45-Acre Tract  
Extends 'Green Belt' Area in Woodbury**

**WOODBURY** - Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust recently negotiated the donation of a 24-acre tract of open space located at the corner of Joshua Hill and Tuttle Roads. Longtime Woodbury resident Mrs. Lucian Warner created a conservation easement on her property to protect it forever. This ensures that the land will never be developed.

Arthur Milnor, Flanders' Executive Director, said that the value of this easement goes beyond the significant size of the tract. "It represents the extension of a targeted 'green belt' area anchored by the 686 acre Whittemore Sanctuary acquired by the land trust in 1999. One of our priorities is to protect parcels in Woodbury that connect with one another or have the potential to connect. This will result in large, contiguous swaths of open space that are valuable in maintaining natural habitats. These include flyways and breeding grounds for birds, and paths for migrating deer and other animals."

Sweeps of preserved open space will also help to retain the rural character and charm that residents of this community have appreciated for generations. Adding Mrs. Warner's 24 acres will not only protect the perimeter of the Whittemore Sanctuary and add to its open space acreage but will also keep the abutting areas around the Sanctuary free from as much development as possible.

Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust holds in trust just under 2000 acres, most of which are located in Woodbury. Milnor explained that Flanders' plan for conserving open space purposefully follows the lands that have the potential for creating large greenbelt areas as well as those that meander along

rivers and streams on their way to flowing into the Pomperaug River. He emphasized that maintaining a clean and clear water supply will be crucial as development continues in Woodbury and neighboring towns.

Flanders' plan also includes preserving farmlands that have been essential to the Woodburian way of life for hundreds of years. "As more people come to appreciate the benefits of locally grown food, and to evaluate the real costs of shipping food across the country and even the world, the demand for local food will only increase," said Milnor.

Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust worked for several years to develop a strategic conservation plan for Woodbury. It was accomplished through a collaborative process with the Council of Governments, Woodbury's Open Space Committee, and the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, among others. The process included detailed mapping of the town to highlight undeveloped land that is deemed most valuable to retain as open space.

Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that focuses on the conservation and stewardship of open space, as well as on environmental education. Through its land trust initiatives, Flanders actively works to protect important natural sites and the area's landscape character and quality of life. Educational programs for children and adults are offered at the Van Vleck Farm Sanctuary, Flanders' main campus in Woodbury. Trails at its major nature preserves are open to the public from dawn to dusk at no charge. Flanders relies on donations and volunteers to support its land conservation and stewardship programs.

Flanders' Studio Welcome Center is located at the corner of Church Hill and Flanders Roads in Woodbury. For more information, call 203-263-3711.

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