

Letters



JERRY ROBERTS

Cinda Jones, president of W.D. Cows in Amherst, left, and Kristin DeBoer, executive director of Kestrel Land Trust, stand in front of Brushy Mountain in Leverett, a nearly 3,500-acre tract of land owned by Cows. The company recently sold the development rights to the property that will forever protect it from development.

Land deal preserves trails, memories

To the editor:

In this snowless winter what a joy it was to learn of the conservation of Brushy Mountain in Leverett and Shutesbury (“\$8.8M deal preserves major forest tract,” Gazette, Dec. 24). After years of behind-the-scenes efforts and negotiations, the Kestrel and Franklin land trusts have brokered a very successful outcome with Cinda Jones of W.D. Cows to permanently protect this nearly 3,500-acre block of private forestland. The specter of development is gone; the Paul C. Jones Working Forest will remain forever wild and managed for the sustainable harvest of forest products as it has been for generations. Informal public access is also assured.

This is of particular importance to

us because, like so many in our town, being outside is what life’s all about. We’ve taken just about all our house guests on various hiking or skiing forays out onto this land. Most can’t believe you can walk for that long without crossing a road.

At this point we must know about half the trails out there, and it’s comforting to realize we’ll have the rest of our lives to find the others.

Most of the fields and forests we explored as kids exist in memory only, being someone’s backyard now. Thankfully, our kids will never have that same lament about Brushy Mountain.

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