

DOG TOWN COMMON

GLOUCESTER

S.H.#4

EXECUTIVE NAME OF PROJECT

MUNICIPALITY

(to be assigned)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES
SELF-HELP CONSERVATION PROGRAM
CHAPTER 132A, SECTION 11

APPLICATION FORM

1. MUNICIPALITY: Gloucester DATE: 8/31/84

2. LOCATION OF PROPERTY: (Indicate geographic locus in community, etc.)

Parcels of land are located in Dogtown Common off Cherry Street on
Dogtown Road.

3. DOES PROPERTY ABUT ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR QUASI-PUBLIC LAND(S)? The area is centrally
located on Cape Ann.
Yes No

If "Yes" size of property and ownership

Size (Acres)	Ownership
<u>989 acres</u>	<u>City of Gloucester, Watershed lands</u>
<u>437 acres</u>	<u>City of Gloucester, Open space</u>

4. PRESENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED: -
1. Doris Tasker, Samuel F. Hershey and Norman VonRosenvinge
2. William H. & Mary E. Clancy (TBE) & N. VonRosenvinge, 21 Beacon St.,
Name Eastern Avenue, Gloucester, Ma 01930
Address Suite 9-J, Boston, MA 02108

ASSESSORS SHEET NUMBER: see attached LOT NUMBER: see attached

5. TOTAL ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED: (104±) 127± PROPOSED COST: see attached 300,500

APPRAISED VALUES: 1) see attached 2) see attached 197,500

6. COVER, Acres in: * A. Forest 34± B. Open 56±
* Approximated from Base Map of Dogtown Properties, Gloucester, MA, Sept. 1984, Original Map by Deborah Gilbert, March 1980
C. Wetland 14± D. Water ---
E. Agricultural Land 0

7. TOPOGRAPHY, Acres in: * A. Flat 41± (0-10% slope) B. Hilly 4± (slopes 25%)
* Approximated from Base Map of Dogtown Properties, Glou., MA, Sept. 1984
C. Rolling 59± (10-25% slope) D. Mountain ---

8. WATERFRONT, Linear Feet on: A. Ocean --- B. Lake ---
C. River --- D. Stream (fresh spring) and intermittent stream (975')

9. PRESENT USE OF THE PROPERTY: Casual blueberry picking, target shooting, hunting,
collecting spring water and off road vehicle use.

10. ARE THERE ANY BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES ON PROPERTY? Yes No

If "Yes", how many, estimated value and current use: Dozens of cellar holes and carved boulders exist on the properties. The cellar holes date back to the late 1680's and the boulders were carved by Roger Babson in the early 1900's.

Self help Application

11. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE PROPERTY NOTING ANY UNIQUE FEATURES:

Containing 104 acres of forest, meadow, and coastal bogs the Dogtown parcels flank either side of Dogtown Common Road off Cherry Street. The scenic beauty and character of these parcels result from their natural features, rich history, and tradition of "Commons" land. The habitat variety found on the parcels provide abundant and diverse wildlife populations including: fish, amphibians, upland game and mammals. Floral investigations are currently underway on all parcels. To date the last known populations of Arethusa sp. and Menyanthes sp. in Essex County have been found on the parcels. (Both species are endangered in Mass.). Less rare although threatened species of Habenaria and Spiranthes have also been found. Cape Ann is the southern most extent of the glacial ice sheet. Large, locally well-known glacial erratics frequent the landscape. One of these, Whales Jaw, is found on the parcels. The tradition of grazing and the recent frequency of fires have produced acres of low bush blueberries. During the "saason" hundreds of berry pickers flock to the Commons.

12. IS PROPERTY ACCESSIBLE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?

Yes _____ No X

If "Yes", estimate walking distance: _____

13. DOES PROPERTY HAVE FRONTAGE ON A STREET(S)? Yes X No _____

If "Yes", name of street(s) Cherry Street; Dogtown Common Road (maintained by DPW, not officially accepted as a Town Way)

(On plot plan (Attachment #3) please indicate access point(s))

14. INDICATE ANY CURRENT OR PROPOSED RESTRICTION ON PROPERTY: (Zoning Restrictions, Deed Restrictions, Conservation Restrictions, Rights of Way)

Subject property is primarily zoned as R-2 (low density residential) and R-3

(medium density residential); part of the lands are designated as watershed, with Goose Cove Reservoir as the predominant watershed area as well as Babson Reservoir Watershed. Deed and conservation restrictions will be determined upon completion of the title and deed research. The land which is being proposed for acquisition will be acquired for conservation purposes and deeded as such.

15. IS A CLEAR TITLE AVAILABLE? Yes X No X Unknown _____
(Title exams are underway at present.)

16. IS ACQUISITION BY: EMINENT DOMAIN _____ FRIENDLY NEGOTIATION X

PARTIAL GIFT _____ OTHER _____

17. DOES PROJECT HAVE TOWN MEETING OR CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL? Yes X No _____

(Attach copy of vote or proposed article) (refer to copy of certified council and Conservation Commission votes.)

18. IS THE TOWN APPLYING TO ANY OTHER AGENCY FOR ACQUISITION FUNDS? Yes X No _____

If "Yes", what agency Land and Water Conservation Fund, U.S. Dept. of Interior

19. DESCRIBE PURPOSE OF ACQUISITION AND PROPOSED USE: At present the area is threatened seriously in two respects. First, its attraction and natural features are suffering cumulatively from vandalism, dumping and unrestrained exploitation by trail-bikers, reckless hunters and the like. Second, part of the land could shortly become a prime target for residential development. The proposed program calls for cooperation between private and public agencies to head off these threats and to restore and maintain Dogtown as a place that can be safely visited and enjoyed by all. The program includes two phases: 1) acquisition of privately owned parcels, and 2) a continuing land management program for the entire Dogtown area.

20. DESCRIBE HOW THE ACQUISITION FITS INTO YOUR TOWN MASTER PLAN OR CONSERVATION/ RECREATION PLAN (Cite Pages): General Plan--page 3; Background--page 36; Goal 9, Objective 9E--page 68; Goal 3--page 62; Goal 4--page 63; Goal 7--page 66; Action Program--pages 73,75,78,79. The amended 1980 City of Gloucester General Plan recommends that the City continue its policy of acquiring land in Dogtown Common. The 1984-89 City of Gloucester Open Space and Recreation Plan recommends that Gloucester continue to acquire lands of heritage, historical or environmental importance. The Plan also addresses the need for improved land management practices.
21. PROPOSED DURATION OF PROJECT: FROM Sept. 1984 TO June 1985 (acquisition), on going management
22. SIGNATURE OF ALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS:

CHAIRMAN:	ADDRESS:
<i>Wm. F. Ryan</i>	351 Weston Ave.
<i>Robert L. Laidlaw</i>	587 Washington St.
<i>John Alto</i>	21 Wheeler St.
<i>William T. Toney</i>	2A Barker Cso.
<i>Fredrick J. Gessel</i>	MUSKIE POINT RD

23. COMMISSION MEMBER FAMILIAR WITH PROPOSAL THAT DIVISION PERSONNEL SHALL CONTACT FOR FIELD EXAMINATION OF PROPERTY:
- | Name | Address | Business or Daytime Phone Number |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| John Alto | 21 Wheeler Street | 283-5940 |

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

1. Certified copy, by city or town clerk, of date of acceptance of General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8C.
2. Certified copy, by city or town clerk, of present appointments of conservation commission.
3. Appraisals and/or opinions of value as required by Division of Conservation Services.
4. Community Comprehensive Open Space-Recreation Plan to be included if not already on file with Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. This plan must not be more than five years old and must meet Division of Conservation Services planning requirements.
5. Plot plan on map showing total area to be acquired. Show current use of adjacent lands. If contiguous lands are under public ownership identify agency and management.

IT IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT ANY PROPERTY ACQUIRED WHICH RECEIVES SELF-HELP REIMBURSEMENT ASSISTANCE IS OPEN TO ALL CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH, AND THAT NO MAJOR ALTERATION OF THIS PROPERTY, OR CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED USES CAN TAKE PLACE WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, AND POSSIBLY THE GENERAL COURT.

IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS TO HAVE