



IMPLICATIONS OF ARTICLE 21

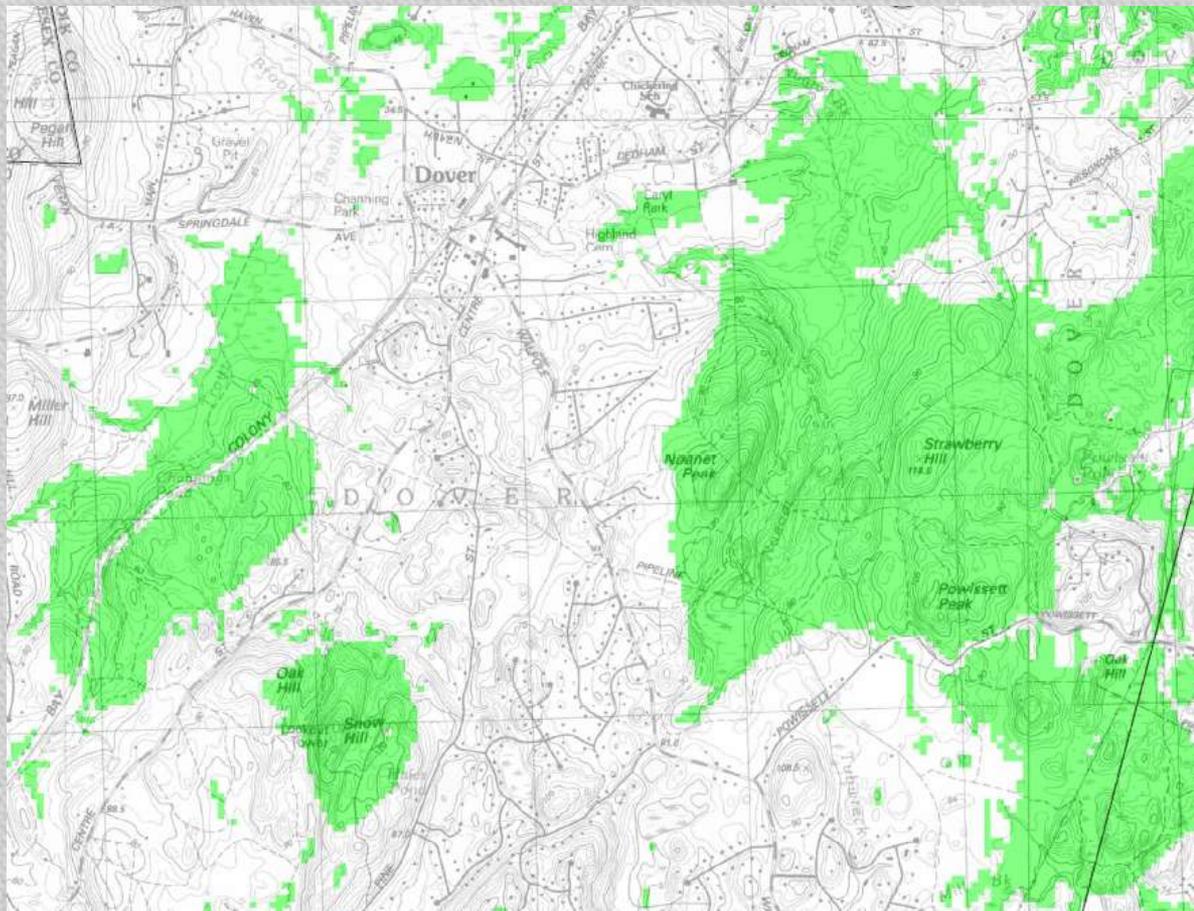
- costly precedent
- incomplete results
- permanent access restrictions

Article 21 Sets a Costly Precedent

Using nearly \$16,000 of taxpayer money to:

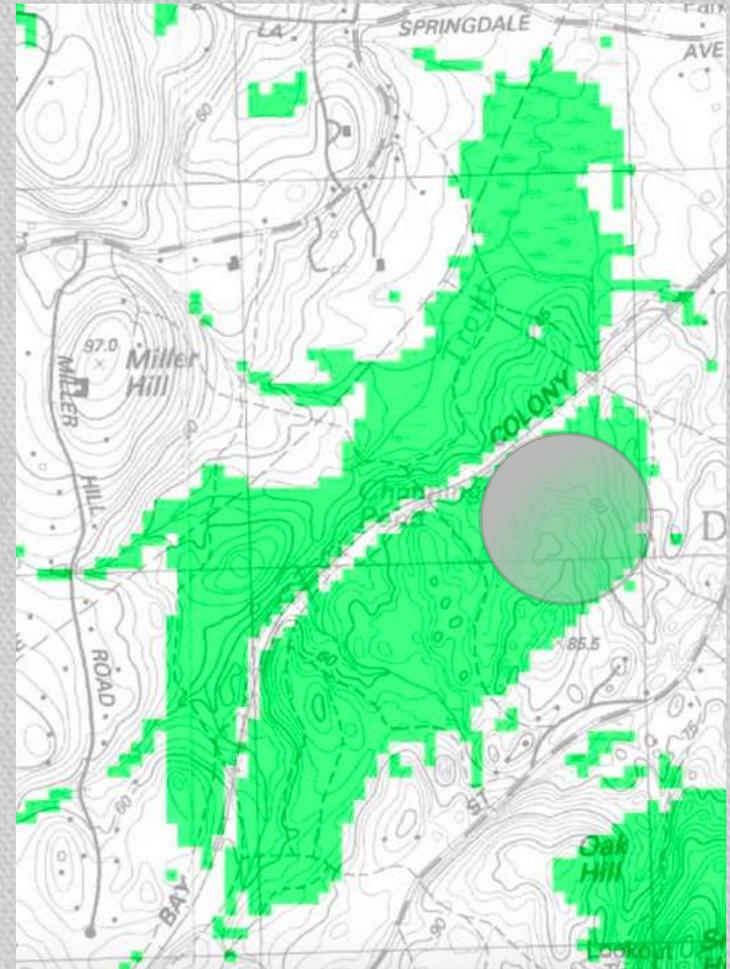
“conduct a wildlife habitat and biodiversity study” on this land parcel (per the Dover Master Plan of 2012)

suggests that proportionate spending will be earmarked for all other town wildlife habitats.



Article 21 Provides Incomplete Results:

- Study could *only* access Town of Dover-owned land (Wylde Woods)
- Remainder of **habitat of statewide importance** is owned privately & requires consent.
- MBTA rail corridor is not marked as a habitat of statewide importance.



Article 21 Restricts Access For All

“All I can say is that *if* I find something that would be a sensitive species that the state recognizes, then **whoever** is using their habitat would need to concur with the guidelines and the recommendations of the state*.”

(Rick Van dePoll, BT2D Consultant, Warrant Hearing 3:10:02 March 20, 2017)

“The **Massachusetts Endangered Species Act** protects rare species and their habitats by prohibiting the “**take**” of any plant or animal species listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern by the Mass Department of Fish & Wildlife”

“**Take**” is defined as: “**harass, harm, pursue, hunt, hound, trap...**”

MESA could also impact development of individual property that is designated “*priority habitat*” for an endangered species

We spent \$8 million for respectful recreation, NOT restricted access!

1. Wylde Woods (62 acres for \$3.2 million)
2. 46 Springdale (28 acres for \$5.5 million)

1. “The Open Space Committee is delighted that the **Wylde Woods** property is now an important part of the Centre Street Conservation Corridor. We look forward to working with the selectmen, the Conservation Commission and other town groups to make Wylde Woods and the rest the corridor accessible to citizens of Dover.” (Beedee Ladd, Chairwoman of the Open Space Committee www.tpl.org 2001)
1. One of the key arguments for purchasing the **46 Springdale** property was to allow trail linkages and public recreation opportunities. (<http://www.doverma.org/>, 2017)

In Summary:

The Good News:

- <1% of the Center Street Wildlife Corridor is converted, allowing convenient, single point recreational access to multi-million dollar properties. *This aligns with the Dover Master Plan.*
- The **rail bed** pathway is not in itself classified as a habitat of potential and statewide importance.
- Past research and current trail features can maintain those important habitats while allowing *thoughtful* public access for all.

Risks of funding a study for this purpose:

- A wildlife study **funded by the town** could set precedent for funding other (larger & more expensive) areas deemed important from the Dover Master Plan of 2012.
- Any findings that block rail bed access would likely block other users (the Hunt Club*, Hikers etc.) from accessing the region as well, AND could restrict abutter property development.

Please vote NO on Article 21