



Society of Wetland Scientists New England Chapter 2023 Annual Conference

2023 SWS-NE Annual Conference Abstract	
Presenter Name	Kathy Sferra
Presenter Job Title	Conservation Director
Presenter Affiliation	Town of Stow
Abstract Title	Stow Acres: From Plan to Action
Abstract	<p>For decades, residents of Stow have been concerned about the future of Stow Acres, the Town’s largest (36 hole) golf course and the largest undeveloped parcel in Stow. This 300+ acre property contains significant conservation values – including riparian corridors along Elizabeth Brook and the Assabet River, scenic views from Randall Road and Gleasondale Road, and opportunities for significant large-scale wetland and upland restoration and enhanced resiliency.</p> <p>This presentation will give an overview of the Town of Stow’s efforts to work proactively in a partnership that included a local land trust, a developer, and the landowner to secure the future of this property. Together, the partnership identified priority locations to focus development and meet the town’s housing diversity needs, and areas that had the highest conservation and recreation values which will support future trails, recreation facilities, restored wetlands and streams, and conserved corridors along Elizabeth Brook and the Assabet River.</p> <p>The Town is currently in the process of working with BSC Group to create a Climate Resilience Master Plan that will guide future use of land at the North Course for conservation and recreation purposes. The plan will include extensive public outreach -- including site visits, public meetings, focus group sessions and more. The plan is expected to be completed in June 2024 and is funded by the MVP Program and the Town of Stow.</p>