

TO: Amherst Town Council
FROM: League of Women Voters of Amherst
RE: Purchase of Hickory Ridge Golf Course



The League of Women Voters of Amherst is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League comments on specific topics when these topics are relevant to published local, state, or national positions. League positions are established only after League members study issues and there is general agreement, or consensus, among members.

The League of Women Voters of Amherst supports the Town's purchase of the 150 acre Hickory Ridge Golf Course, as described by Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek at the District 5 meeting on November 21, 2019. This purchase will provide a significant opportunity for the Town to address climate change in the broadest sense, such as planting native trees to provide habitat and absorb carbon dioxide and restoring Fort River wetlands, as well as creating nature trails and recreational opportunities. Solar panels covering 26 acres are part of the proposed agreement with the seller.

Our support is based on both state and local League positions:

The League promotes an environment beneficial to life through protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

The League supports the management of natural resources to enhance and protect the unique character of the Connecticut River Basin and to protect, maintain, or restore its function as a green belt.

In addition, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts unanimously adopted a Climate Emergency Resolution in June 2019 that strongly urges relevant action at all levels of government.

Martha Hanner for the Sustainability & Climate Action Committee
Nancy DiMattio for the Steering Committee
Amherst League of Women Voters

December 11, 2019