

THE COALITION FOR

BUZZARDS BAY



Viveiros Dairy Farm

Sconticut Neck Road
Fairhaven, Massachusetts





Viveiros Dairy Farm Preservation Project

Preserving Fairhaven's scenic beauty, farmland, coastal water quality and wildlife habitats



VOTE YES on Community Preservation Act - STM Article 21

PROJECT SUMMARY

The protection of the 120 acre Viveiros Dairy property on Sconticut Neck is the most ambitious and exciting land conservation project ever undertaken in Fairhaven. A broad partnership of organizations, including the Town, The Coalition for Buzzards Bay (CBB), Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust (FALPT), and state and federal conservation agencies, are working with the Viveiros family to:

- Prevent the potential overdevelopment of Sconticut Neck and avoid new financial strains on municipal services,
- Protect 3,450 feet of shoreline along Nasketucket Bay and ensure that the water quality and wildlife habitat of the Bay and its wetlands are preserved,
- Open 37 acres (including 2,088 feet of the property's shoreline) to the public for passive recreation and add to the adjacent network of open spaces currently managed by the Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust,
- Maintain 72 acres of valuable agricultural lands and the continued operation of the working dairy farm, and
- Preserve the rural nature and scenic beauty of Sconticut Neck.

Out of an interest in seeing the farm remain undeveloped, the Viveiros Family has agreed to sell a combination of land and permanent conservation restrictions on the entire farm at a bargain sale price. If we are unsuccessful in raising the necessary funds for the project, the family will be free to consider sale for development.

Of the total price of \$3.25 million, \$2.9 million has already been secured from federal and state grants. By contributing \$350,000 to the project, the Town of Fairhaven will be maximizing the impact of its ~10% share in a 120 acre project.

90% of the funding needed to protect the Viveiros Farm has already been secured

<u>SECURED FUNDING</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of project</u>
New Bedford Harbor Trustees Council Grant <i>Harbor Superfund Restoration Funding</i>	\$ 1,200,000	37 %
North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant <i>Bouchard Oil Spill Penalty Funds</i>	\$ 1,000,000	31 %
Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Grant <i>Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources</i>	\$ 700,000	21.5 %
<u>REQUESTED FUNDING</u>		
Fairhaven Community Preservation Act Request	\$ 350,000	10.5 %
TOTAL COST OF PRESERVATION	\$ 3,250,000	

The project will permanently protect the farm in three parts:

- A 72-acre Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) on the farm fields and the working dairy operation will be co-held by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the Town. The APR permanently limits the use of this area to farming.
- Second, a Conservation Restriction (CR) will be placed over an 11 acre parcel of saltmarsh and beach between the fields and Nasketucket Bay. The CR will be co-held by CBB and the FALPT. It will prevent the development of the parcel and allow it to function as a buffer between the abutting fields and Nasketucket Bay.
- Third, a 37 acre parcel to the south of the APR will be purchased outright. This tract includes a small field, wetlands and 2,088 feet of beach and will be incorporated into FALPT's Winsegansett Marshes Reserve which surrounds it on three sides. Ownership by FALPT will enable public access to the property and shoreline access to Nasketucket Bay.

