

Memo From: *Friends of Coburn Pond*

To: East Montpelier Selectboard

Re: Warned Article Requesting Funding in Annual Report

January 2, 2020

*Friends of Coburn Pond* is a community-based membership organization that has served to facilitate an active group of stakeholders who use Coburn Pond for recreation. Our purpose is to consider the best practices to manage the property once it is no longer owned by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans). It evolved from the original citizen action group that prevented the pond from being filled in as constructed wetlands when we believed the Act 250 process had been completed. The most significant goal of these two groups has been to protect access to the pond for the public and to conserve the property that contains Coburn Pond as a community resource in perpetuity.

Both groups have been reporting back to the Town for more than a decade. In recent years we have expanded our outreach beyond the Town's Annual Report to include an educational panel board at Town Meeting (and organizational events), a distinct Community Group web page linked to the Town's webpage, and to develop our unique organizational webpage.

With completion of the VTrans' constructed wetlands monitoring period, and in anticipation of the eventual transfer of the property out of VTrans' ownership, *Friends of Coburn Pond* has expanded our membership group, our public visibility, and outreach in recent years, relying predominantly on membership support and small grants.

*Friends of Coburn Pond* is at an organizational crossroads. To conserve Coburn Pond as a community resource in perpetuity, *Friends of Coburn Pond* must expand our capacity to be in a position to work with potential partners. This requires an organizational leap: To increase our organizational and financial capacity, and to continue to build a growing stakeholder membership.

These goals require more consistent, paid staff time to continue to develop community outreach, and to expand fundraising through community events and grantsmanship.

*Friends of Coburn Pond* is requesting that the Selectboard warn an article in the Annual Report for a \$25,000 capacity grant from the town to support our goals toward stakeholder management of Coburn Pond to be conserved as a public community resource.

Many thanks,

Renée Carpenter, coordinator  
*Friends of Coburn Pond*