## **Land Conservation 102**



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## What are we going to cover in 101 and 102?

- Lifecycle of the project
- From first landowner contact to closing
- Due diligence
- Funding
- Messaging
- Resources
- Case Study "Saltmarsh Farm"
- Time for Q and A both sessions

#### What we'll cover in 102

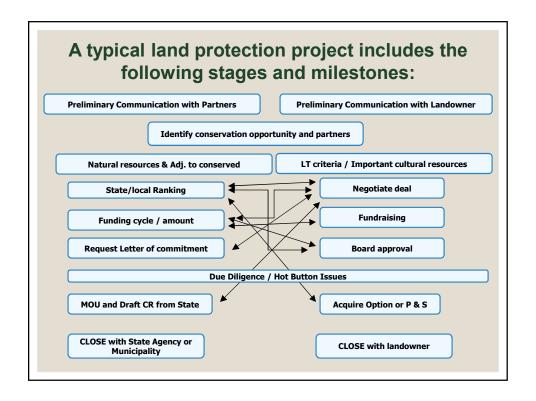
#### Site Control (David):

• What it means and why it's important

#### Land Planning and Appraisal (Jim):

- · Overview of the process
- How land planning informs the appraisal
- Due Diligence (Kate):
  - Title
  - Environmental
  - Survey

#### Q and A



## **Site Control: Why**

- Enables you to deliver the desired conservation outcome
- Legally enforceable
- Also psychologically important
- · A means of allocating risk
- Applicable to:
  - purchases, gifts, bargain sales
  - a variety of instruments (CR, fee, APR, trail/stewardship/access easements

#### Site Control: What

- Can take a variety of forms, depending on project structure
  - Purchases
    - Purchase and sale agreement
    - Option to purchase
  - Gifts
    - Pledge agreement
    - Land/CR donation agreement

## **Site Control: How**

- · Purchase and Sale Agreement
  - · Obligates buyer to complete transaction (or forfeit deposit)
- · Option
  - · Opportunity, but not obligation, to complete purchase
  - · Creates window of opportunity for fundraising
  - Enables LT to walk away
  - · Defines parameters of agreement
    - · How much
    - · For how long
- Special note on bargain sales----important to declare <u>intent</u> to do a bargain sale to establish charitable motivation

#### Site Control: How

- Sets clear expectations for:
  - Purchase price
  - Timing
  - Contingencies/due diligence
    - Appraisal
    - Financing
    - Title
    - Environmental
  - · Deposit structure
    - Amount
    - Timing
    - Refundability

## LandVest

## **Due Diligence – Appraisal**

- Required for funding (town state)
- Make sure you are not overpaying (IRS regs)
- Appraisal vs Assessment
- · Restricted use report vs Full Narrative
- Review Appraisal
- · Appraiser qualifications
- Appraise the right things

Fee value, CR value, wetlands, utility lines, access easements, frontage, town zoning

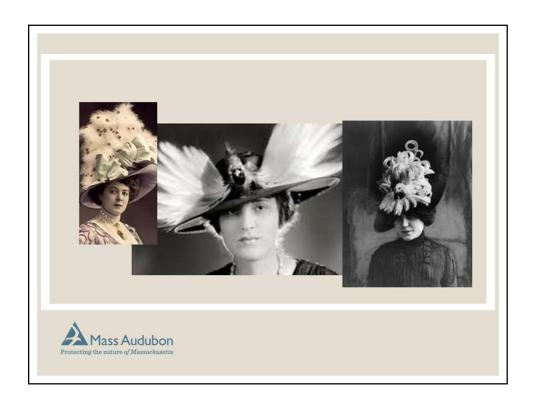








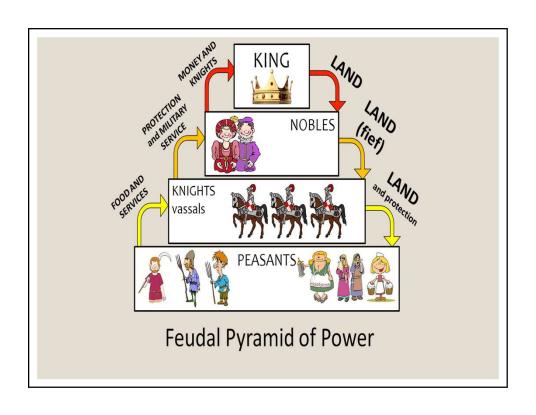




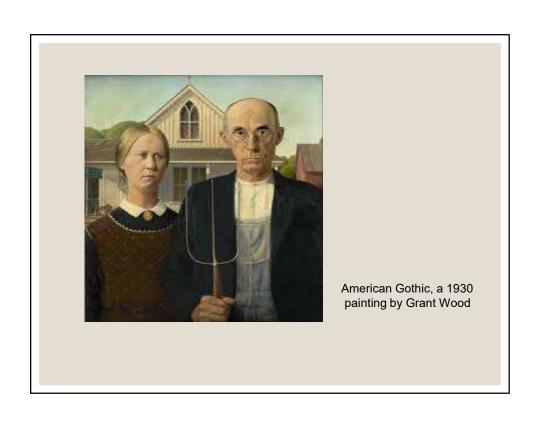


# The life cycle of a "typical" land protection project includes the following stages and milestones:

- Due Diligence
  - Appraisal (Full narrative and a review)
  - Survey
  - Title
  - Environmental









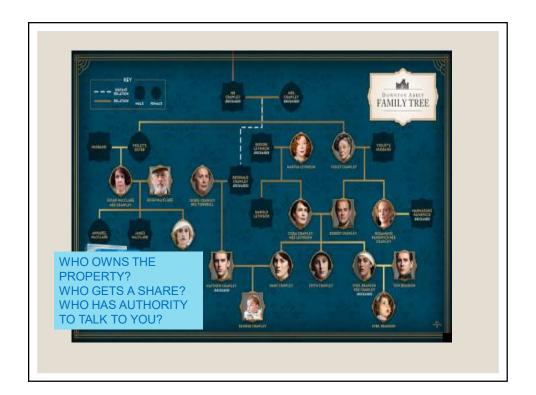


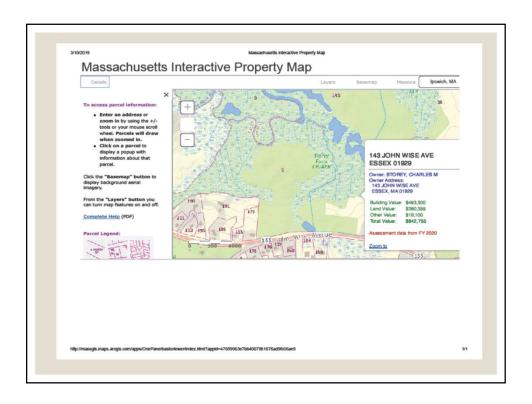
## **Due Diligence - Title**

- Title report alerts you to matters of record that might affect ownership
- Mortgages (need to be discharged or <u>subordinated</u>)
- Unpaid Taxes
- Ownership (who has authority to sell? Trusts, etc)
- Fractional ownerships
- Utility easements and rights of way

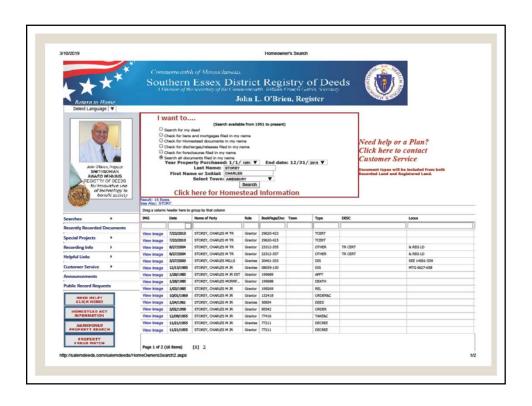
For a Conservation Restriction, any mortgage must be subordinated

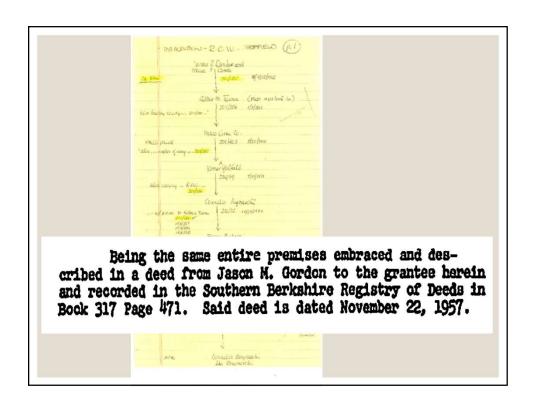








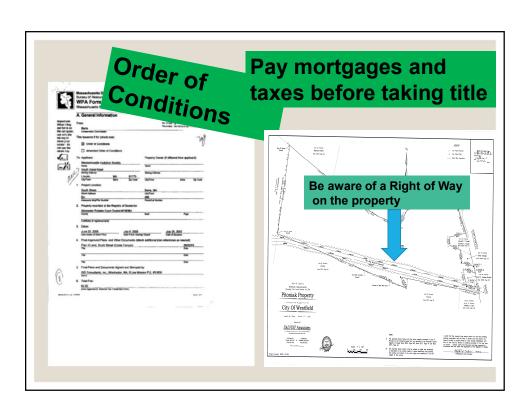




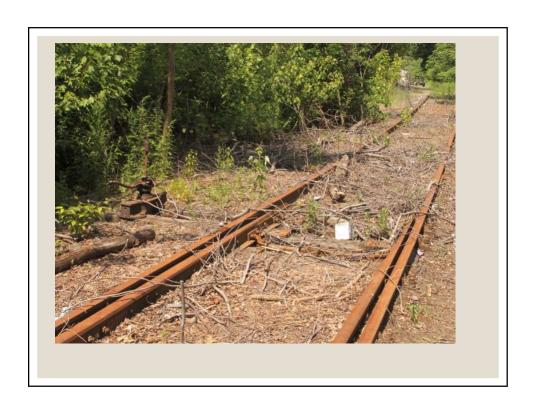
ALSO GRANTED herewith to Grantee is a right of first refusal on any land owned by the Grantor within two hundred (200') feet of the south border of the above described premises conveyed to Grantee. However, the Grantee shall not have the said right of first refusal with regard to any transfers to "family" members of Grantor as more specifically set forth and defined in M.G.L. Chapter 61. Specifically, in the event Grantor obtains a bona fide offer for the said premises located within two hundred (200') feet of the south border of the above described premises conveyed to Grantee, Grantor shall deliver, by certified mail, to Grantee a copy of said bona fide offer, whereby Grantee shall have a period of

ALSO GRANTED herewith is a license to use an existing logging road located on abutting premises of the Grantor to access the above described premises of the Grantee which said license shall expire five (5) years from the date of this deed or upon the Grantee obtaining a certificate of occupancy for a dwelling on the above described premises, whichever is earlier.

ergain, sell and convey unto the said Albert M.Turner am open, exclusive and unob structed right of wey, two (2) rods in width, over and upon the farm owned and occup ied by granters, situated in said Sheffield, extending from the westerly line of the lay out of the Berkshire Railroad, now owned or operated by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company, westerly to land of Nelson E.Gordon. The center line of said















#### What is a Phase I Site Assessment?

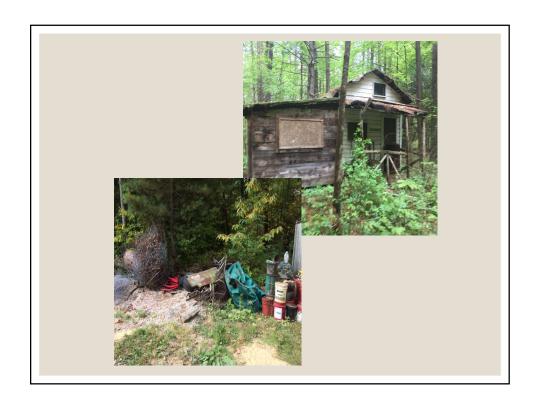
## Identifies contamination on a property, including potential impacts from neighbors

- Visual inspection of property
- No subsurface testing
- •Interviews (owner, former owners, neighbors)
- •Public records search
- Databases, municipal offices
- •Review of any prior site assessment reports
- •Conducted by a Licensed Site Professional (LSP)

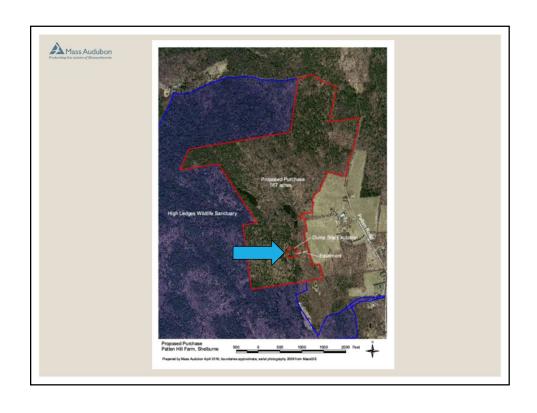








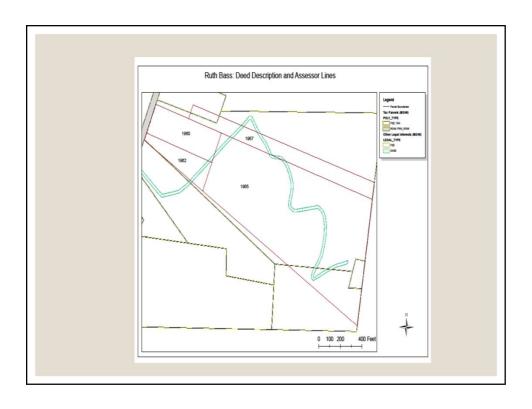




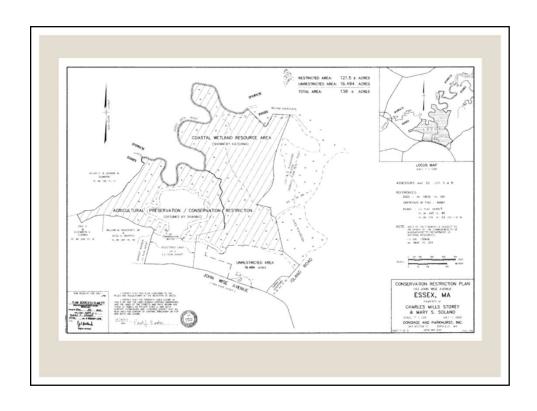


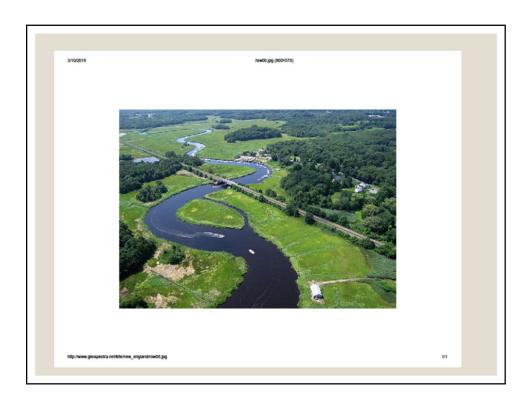
## Survey

- Existing plan?
- Adequate description in the deed(s)?
- Need to subdivide?

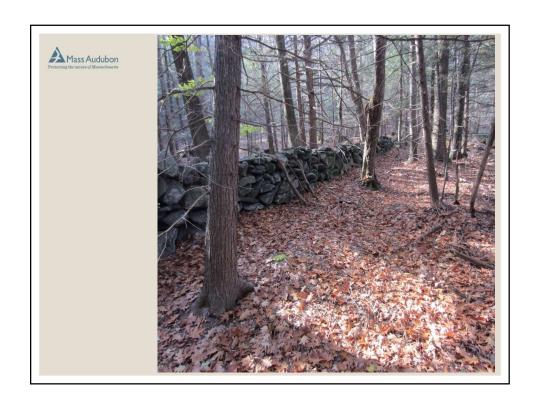




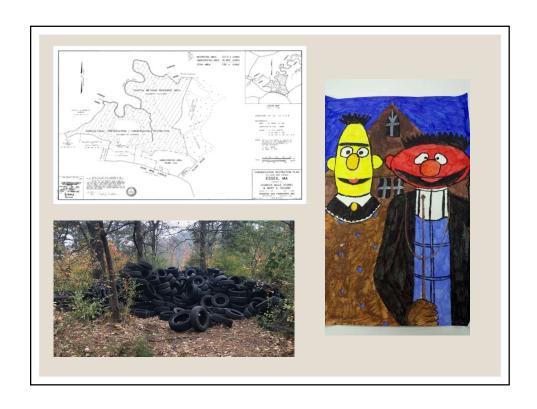


















#### Resources

Books: Conservation Easement Handbook

Preserving Family Lands Your Land, Your Legacy Land Conservation Options

Websites: OLIVER (GIS online viewer)

Land Trust Alliance - Ita.org MAPPR (MassAudubon)

Grants: EEA Website (and Melissa Cryan's

session this afternoon)

MLTC: website and conferences massland.org

Regional and statewide land trusts – call us.



## Questions?



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