

TOWN OF ELMORE, VT

Meeting of the Elmore Select Board

Meeting Date: **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 @6:00pm**

Meeting Type: Regular

Agenda Version Number: Final Note: Final Agenda will post 24 hours prior to meeting

ESB Members: Caroline DeVore-Chair, Glenn Schwartz-Clerk, Warren West; Elmore Road Commissioner: Michel Lacasse
Meeting will be held at the Elmore Town Office and by Zoom.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING: <https://bit.ly/ElmoreZoom>

Meeting ID: 677 090 6765 Passcode: 8888 | Phone: +16465588656 Meeting ID: 677 090 6765 Passcode: 8888

NOTE: SELECTBOARD MAY ENTER EXECUTIVE OR DELIBERATIVE SESSION(S)

Agenda: *Requester should be the same individual as the presenter.
*3rd party or representative presentations are discouraged.
*Request agenda slot to Select Board - minimum 1 week prior

Time Allocations:

ITEM TYPE	1 st Speaker	Next Speaker	Max total time
1. Special Topics	Assigned by Select Board		Set by SB
2. New	5 Min	2 Min ea.	10 Min total
3. Active	5 Min	2 Min ea.	10 Min total
4. Completed	2 Min	1 Min ea.	5 Min total
5. Non-Agenda	5 Min	2 Min ea.	10 Min total

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman

- Review/approve previous meeting's minutes, Review additions or deletions to today's agenda
- Conflict of Interest review for agenda items

1. SPECIAL TOPICS (Note: Topic will be addressed for time noted with follow-up as needed and noted by the SB.)

- DISCUSSION:** Support request. Conservation project VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
- UPDATE:** Town Plan Progress update from EPC (Dawn Angney 5 min)
- DISCUSSION/VOTE:** Town Hall renovations plan (All 15 min)
- APPOINTMENT:** Employee appointment as Ethics Liaison (All: 5 min)
- REVIEW:** Status of draft budget development (All – 5 min)
- UPDATE:** Town Garage – maintenance update (All – 5 min)

2. ACTIVE ITEMS

- REMINDER:** Watershed in-person meeting 1/13/25 Elmore Town Offices (also via Zoom)
- UPDATE:** Elmore Town website blog / Communication (All – 10 min)
- DISCUSSION:** Town Hall Rentals – Proposal of fees and rental guidelines (West - 15 min)

3. CONTINUING ACTIVE ITEMS (Update status by primary owner)

- UPDATE:** Road Commissioner's Report (10 min)
- UPDATE:** Zoning Administrator's Report (10 min)

4. NON-AGENDA/OTHER ITEMS (Time Available and As Needed)

- Routine Administrative, operations items and payment approvals.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Not planned for 1/8/25 meeting

Next meeting: February 12, 2025 @ 6:00pm. Requests to be on the SB agenda must be received by the Chair before the last Friday of the preceding month.

State of Vermont
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
1 National Life Drive, Dewey 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3801

Agency of Natural Resources

<http://fpr.vermont.gov>

December 11, 2024

Town of Elmore Selectboard
PO Box 123
Lake Elmore, VT 05657

RE: Land Conservation Project in the Town of Elmore

Members of the Elmore Selectboard:

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) is working to acquire 102± acres of land in Elmore as an addition to Elmore State Park. Robert Burley owns a 200-acre parcel off Elmore Mountain Road, and Mr. Burley is working with FPR to subdivide the upper (eastern) half of the property and donate it to FPR as an addition to Elmore State Park, along with a deeded right-of-way for the State to access the property for management. The parcel that would be conveyed to FPR is 102± acres and is referred to as the “Burley” parcel. For more detail about the location of the property, see the attached maps. FPR is asking for the Town of Elmore’s support for this acquisition at your upcoming selectboard meeting on December 11, 2024.

The Burley parcel is forested, steep, and offers incredible views of Mount Mansfield and the surrounding Green Mountains. The majority of the parcel hosts a healthy Northern Hardwood Forest Natural Community. Higher elevation portions of the property host a Montane Yellow Birch – Red Spruce Forest and a high-quality Red Spruce-Heath Rocky Ridge Community. The undulating topography supports a myriad of habitat features from fern glades to stepped ledges and overlooks. The property is identified by Vermont Conservation Design as being within a Highest Priority Interior Forest and Connectivity Block, as well as a Highest Priority area for Physical Landscape Diversity. The addition of this parcel to Elmore State Park would add to the existing corridor of conserved land connecting Elmore State Park to the Worcester Range. This corridor is a regionally significant wildlife linkage recognized by the Staying Connected Initiative for helping to connect the spine of the Green Mountains to the Northeastern Kingdom. If acquired by FPR, the property would be open to the public for dispersed recreation and would be managed as part of Elmore State Park. The right-of-way access would expand management access to the western portion of Elmore State Park, an area that currently lacks adequate management access.

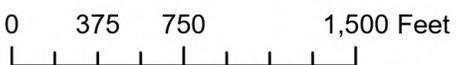
FPR respectfully asks for your support of this project. For your convenience, I have attached a brief letter to offer your support. Should you see fit to support the project, we use this letter to show town support as the project advances. If acquired, the property will be managed under an Interim Stewardship Plan until the Long Range Management Plan for Elmore State Park is amended or updated to include the parcel through a public process. Also, please find attached a letter regarding FPR’s Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program. Essentially, FPR does not pay property taxes for land under its ownership, but it does make an annual PILOT that is designed to pay towns the same amount of municipal taxes they would have received in the year of acquisition had the parcel remained in private ownership.

Thank you and please feel free to reach out with thoughts or questions at any time.

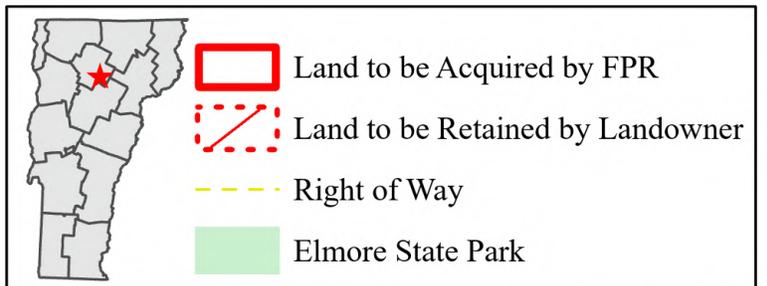
Gunnar Nurme, Land Acquisition Coordinator



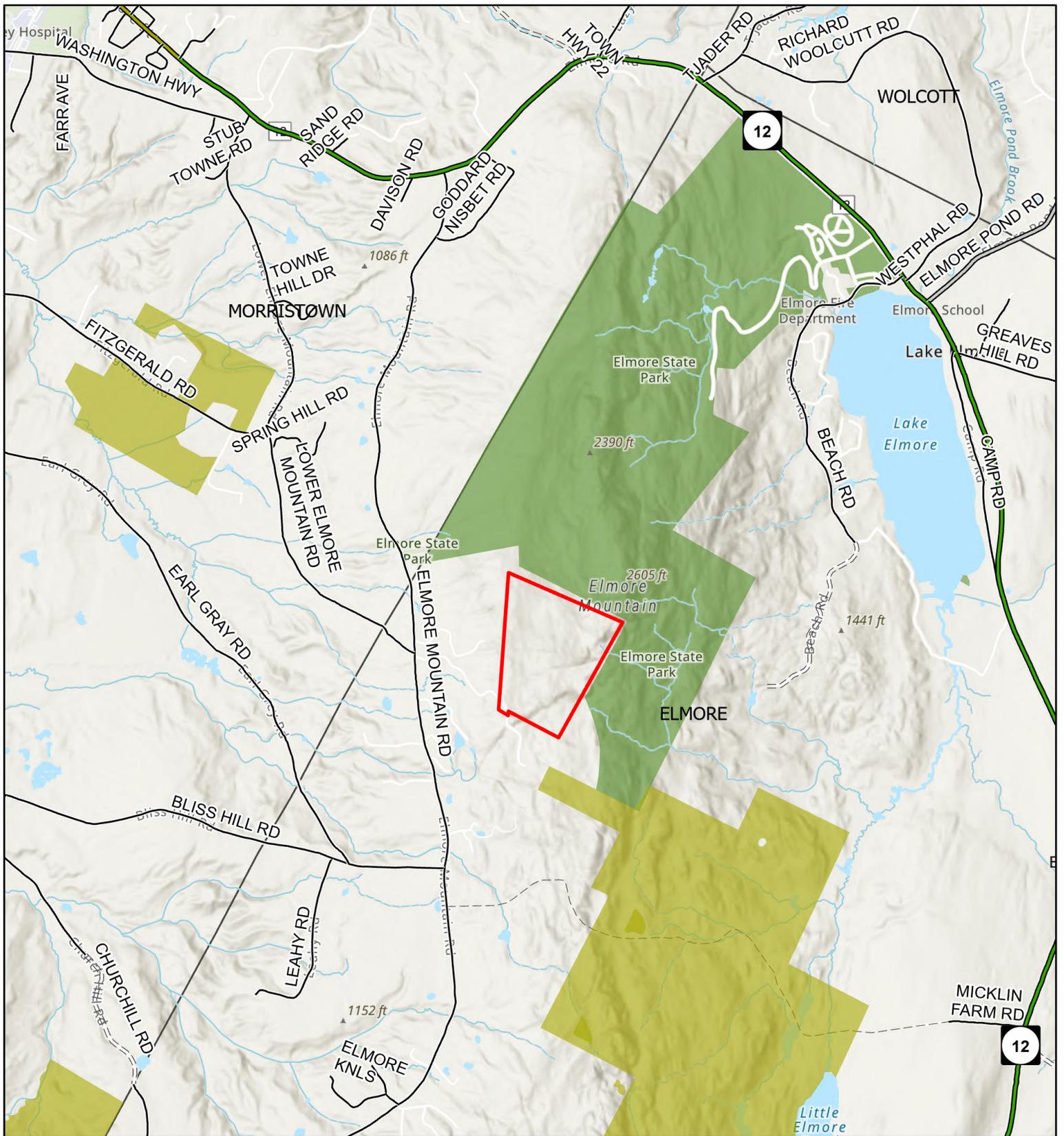
Orthophoto Map
 Elmore State Park Expansion Project, Elmore
 Gunnar Nurme, October 2024



Scale: 1:10,000



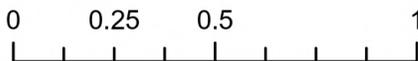
This map is for illustrative purposes only. The accuracy of the data layers shown on this map are limited by the accuracy of the source materials. No warranty as to the accuracy or the usefulness of the data is expressed or implied.



Location Map

Burley Parcel

Cartographer: Gunnar Nurme, July 2024



Scale: 1:30,000



- Burley Parcel
- Elmore State Park
- Other Protected Lands

State of Vermont
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier VT 05620-3801
www.vtforest.org

Agency of Natural Resources

[tdd] 800-253-0191

Town of Elmore Select Board
c/o Sandra Lacasse, Town Clerk
P.O. Box 123
Lake Elmore, VT 05657

October 29, 2024

RE: PILOT Payment for the Robert M. Burley Trustee Property, Elmore, Vermont
SPAN 201-064-10072

Dear Select Board Members,

I have been asked to estimate the tax implications of the proposed acquisition by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) of a parcel in the Town of Elmore. The parcel covers 200 acres, listed under the ownership of Robert M. Burley, Trustee of the 342 Trust on Elmore Mountain Road in Elmore, and FPR is proposing to acquire 102 acres of the total property. FPR is not proposing to acquire the structure(s) located in the western portion of the parcel.

The State does not pay property taxes, but it does make a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) on land it acquires that is equivalent to the amount the Town would receive for property taxes in the year of acquisition, if the land was privately owned. ANR creates the PILOT with the same equation that the Town uses to derive property taxes with the municipal tax rate and the Town's assessed value for the property, at the time of acquisition. Please see https://fpr.vermont.gov/state_land/acquisition/pilot-program for a discussion of the PILOT process including periodic adjustments to increase the annual PILOT amounts paid to each town. The Legislature provides about 80 percent of the funding for the PILOT program, with the remaining 20 percent of the funding coming from the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The table below lists the PILOT payments that the Town of Elmore would receive annually from the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for the parcel. Calculations are based on the Town of Elmore's municipal tax rate in 2023 and the land value as published in the most recent grand list (2023). Please note that ANR would apply the land value and municipal rate as set at the time of acquisition and so may produce a total slightly different from the total derived as of October 29, 2024.

PILOT Calculation Based on FY2023 Values				
SPAN	Assessed Value	Municipal Tax Rate	Equation	PILOT Due
201-064-10072	\$468,800 for 200.00 acres land value. Acquiring 102 acres	0.4700	102/200 acres = 0.51. 51% of \$468,800 = \$239,088 \$239,088/100 (0.4700) = \$1,123.71	\$1,123.71

Because the non-residential tax rate is set Statewide, and because the non-residential school tax is paid into the State Education Fund, the loss of the school tax on this parcel would be made up by all property taxpayers in the State, and not by Elmore taxpayers alone. As such, the education funds received by the Town from the State Education Fund are not impacted and the impact on individual taxpayers is minuscule, totaling less than 1/10th of a cent for Elmore taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Niels Rinehart

Town of Elmore Selectboard
PO Box 123
Lake Elmore, VT 05657

December 11, 2024

Gunnar Nurme
Land Acquisition Coordinator
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05602

RE: Land Conservation Project in the Town of Elmore

Dear Mr. Nurme,

The Town of Elmore Selectboard reviewed the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation's (FPR) proposed acquisition of the Burley parcel as an addition to Elmore State Park at our meeting on December 11, 2024. We sign this letter to offer our support for FPR's acquisition of the Burley parcel in the Town of Elmore.

Sincerely,

Print Name and Title:
Elmore Selectboard