



Update on Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts' plan to sell properties in Rowley and Beverly

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEM) announced in late June that it plans to sell two properties — one known as The Center in Rowley, located at 390 Wetherfield Street, and one known as Camp Paradise in Beverly, located at 44 Cole Street. As a first step, GSEM contacted and began working with conservation organizations to determine the potential for these properties to be protected as open space.

Rowley:

In late August, GSEM sent representatives from its staff and Board of Directors to an evening meeting of the Rowley Town Selectmen. There was discussion of the property features and GSEM's preference for conservation status for all or a major portion of the nearly 200-acre property. The shared goal of GSEM, town officials, residents and others is for all or partial preservation as open space. Currently there are structures at the front of the property, including an Olympic-size swimming pool, making it ideal for mixed use, with the town sustaining a major parcel as open space for community use, and another organization maintaining a smaller portion as a camp.

In early September, GSEM hosted a walkthrough of the entire property for town land planning staff, conservation commission representatives, and organizations and individuals potentially interested in operating camps on the property. GSEM is pleased there is interest.

Based on the number of items already on the agenda for the November town meeting, GSEM was advised that the property will be included for informal discussion at that meeting, with a formal presentation of a plan for the land's use scheduled for the spring town meeting.

GSEM is working with Greenbelt to continue to evaluate conservation options for the property, a process that will evolve over many months. No sales price has been set and no further action has been taken at this time.

Beverly:

GSEM representatives have been in contact with Beverly town officials and conservation groups to discuss the potential future use of the property. GSEM is working with Greenbelt to continue to evaluate conservation options for the property, a process that will evolve over many months.

No sales price has been set and no further action has been taken at this time.