

Newmarket open space funds spent on farm property

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NEWMARKET— The town has spent \$100,000 in open space funding to help pay for a \$542,500 conservation easement on 69 acres at the Nostrom property, located on Doe Farm Lane.

The property is one of two remaining working farms in town and includes a mix of fields, forest, and wetlands, according to Newmarket's town planner. In addition, it abuts a large block of conserved land in Tuttle Swamp.

Moreover, the property lies within the town's Source Water Protection Area, delineated to protect the municipal drinking water supply.

The easement protects the property from residential or commercial development.

The remaining funding was \$212,500 from the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, \$155,000 from the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, and \$75,000 from the local Conservation Commission.

Earlier, the Newmarket Open Space Commission voted to recommend to town councilors that the \$100,000 in open space funding be appropriated for the land.

Councilors approved the easement Aug. 17.

In 2002, local voters approved a \$2 million open space funding bond, earmarked for preserving open space and public purposes.