



**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**P.O. BOX 278
WEST TISBURY, MA 02575**

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MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Conservation Commission of the Town of West Tisbury, hereby certify that the proposed Amended and Restated Conservation Restriction from Michael Minars, Trustee of Songwind Nominee Trust u/d/t dated December 26, 2013 to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation (CR) covering approximately 12.09 acres, consisting of a portion of the property at 143 Obed Daggett Road, West Tisbury Accessors Map 6 Lot 2.1 (the "Premises") is in the public interest because of the following public benefits:

- (1) Open Space Preservation. Protection of the Premises will further the preservation of the natural character, natural resources, and habitat values of that section of West Tisbury known as Cedar Tree Neck by adding 8.5 acres of land to the original 3.58 covered by the original conservation restriction. The premise partially abuts Cedar Tree Neck and is in close proximity to the J. Percy Moore, Kathleen Carter Moore, and Marion Hamilton Carter Nature Preserve also owned by Sheriffs Meadow Foundation.
- (2) Protection of Wildlife Habitat: Protection of the Premises aids in the preservation, and the protection from adverse impacts, of species considered within "Critical Natural Landscape" containing "Landscape Blocks" as defined in the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and The Nature Conservancy's 2012 report, Bitmap 2: Conservation the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World," which identifies "the areas that are most critical for ensuring the long-term persistence of rare and other native species and their habitats, exemplary natural communities, and a diversity of ecosystems."

The CR serves to provide protection for a 9.05-acre portion of the Premises identified as "Core Habitat" for "Species of Conservation Concern as shown on BioMap2 and included in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

- (3) Protection of Archeological Resources: The Amended and Restated Conservation Restriction will continue to protect a Native American burial ground and the land within 100 feet of the burial site.
- (4) Protection of Wetland Resources: The inclusion of wetlands surrounded by upland acreage will provide additional protection to the wetlands protected under the Wetlands

Protection Act and the West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Under the Bylaw, the Buffer Zone is considered a defined resource area.

- (5) Furtherance of Government Policy: Protection of the Premises furthers the governmental policy of the Town of West Tisbury as demonstrated in the Town of West Tisbury's 2009 Community Preservation Plan (revised 3/15), which includes open space goals and objectives for the Town, including the protection of "water quality, including surface water and watersheds", "scenic vistas and habitat." Protection of the Premises is consistent with the Martha's Vineyard Island Plan, a regional master plan for the six towns of Martha's Vineyard completed in December 2009, specifically Goal N1-1 to "increase the rate of acquisition of open space, both outright ownership and conservation restrictions" . Protection of the Premises will further the town and regional goals outlined above.

West Tisbury Conservation Commission

Signed by Maria G. McFarland, duly authorized by a vote of the Conservation Commission taken on April 21, 2020.
