

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A dark, winding road or path cuts through a patchwork of green and brown fields. The fields are irregularly shaped and separated by thin lines, possibly fences or roads. The overall scene is a mix of natural vegetation and agricultural land.

# **Town of Egremont**

**Public Workshop #1**

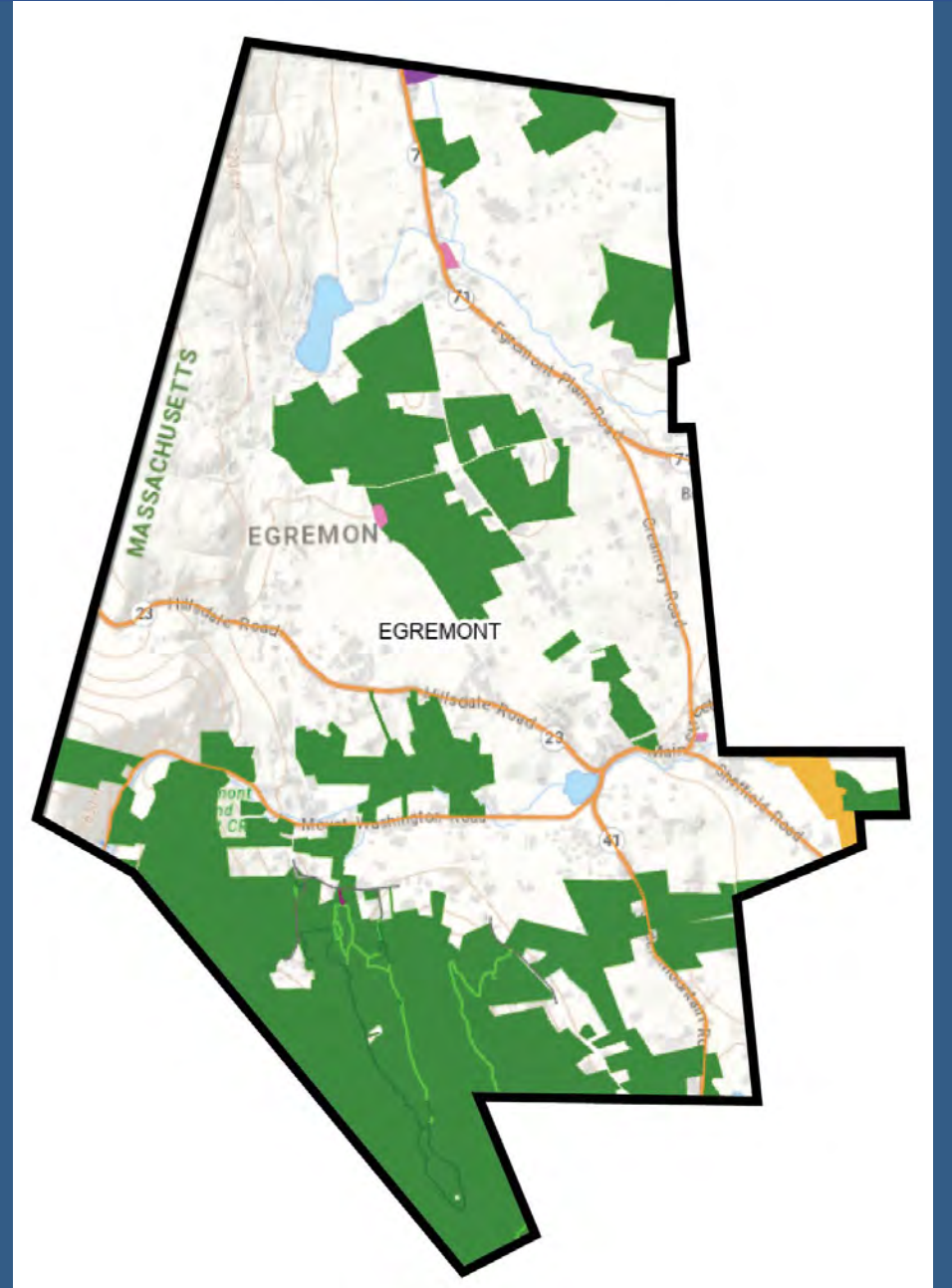
**A Vision (and Goals) for Egremont!**

**Comprehensive Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan**

**January 14, 2023**

# AGENDA

1. Welcome (Jared Kelly and David Seligman, Someone from Select Board?)
2. About the Planning Process (Emily)
3. Planning for Egremont (Emily)
4. Planning for Open Space and Recreation (Tracy)
5. Public Workshops: Today and March 11
6. Next steps



# CONSULTANT TEAM



Emily Keys Innes, AICP, LEED AP ND  
Innes Associates  
Comprehensive Plan



Dracy Adamski, AICP  
Tighe & Bond  
Open Space and Recreation Plan



# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

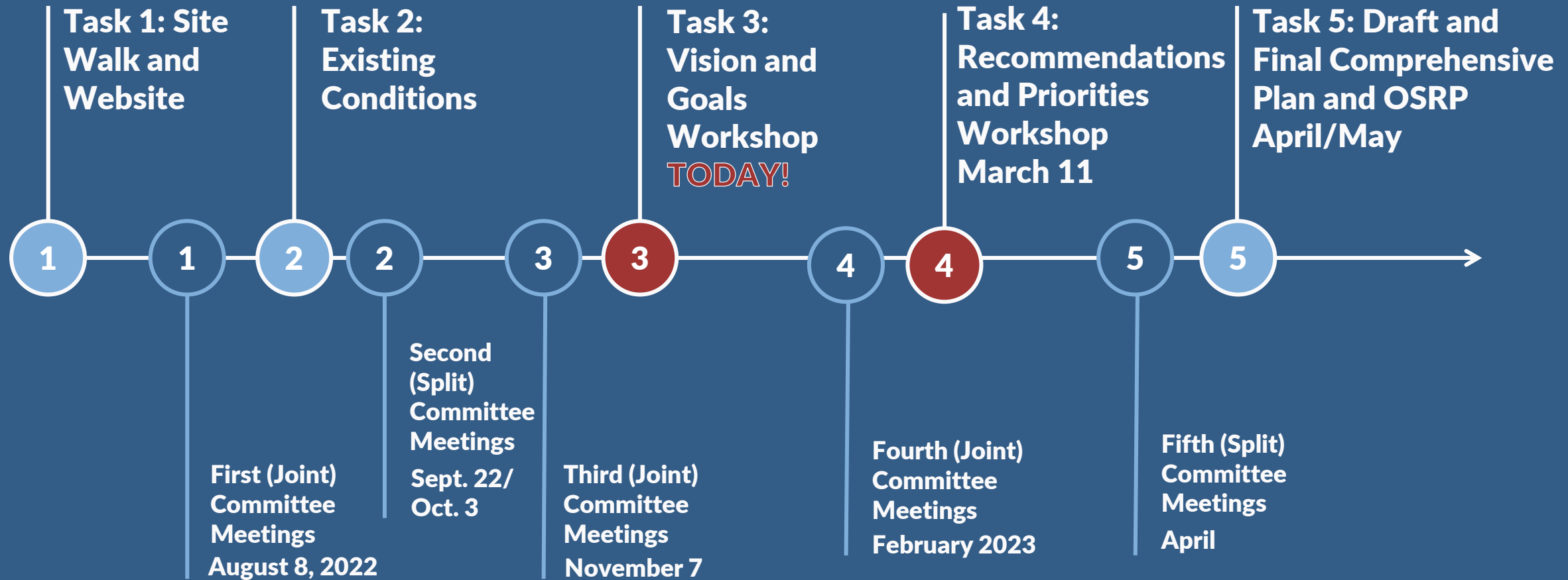
## *Comprehensive Plan*

- Jared Kelly
- Stephen Lyle
- Jon Caplan
- Jeff Lazarus
- Roz Liston
- Peg McDonough
- Rich Montone
- Bill Tynan
- Julia Rasch
- James Warwick
- Eileen Vining

## *Open Space and Recreation Plan*

- David Seligman
- Ron Banks
- Ben Barrett
- Matthew Bersani
- Elia Delmolino
- Barbara Kalish
- Charles Miller
- Bill Tynan

# TIMELINE



# COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND THE OSRP

- Based on the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 81D
- Vision and Goals Statement
  - Land Use
  - Open Space and Recreation
  - Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources
  - Housing
  - Economic Development
  - Circulation
  - Municipal Services and Facilities
- Implementation Plan
  - Includes zoning changes, financing, Town capacity, and partnerships.

Within the process there is flexibility to address other topics important to the community.

Examples include (but are not limited to!)

- Sustainability (environmental, economic, and social)
- Impacts on municipal budget and governance
- Public health
- Climate change.

## 2003 MASTER PLAN VISION

For the future, as a Town, we are committed to:

- Preserving our rural Berkshire character and our rich natural and cultural heritage;
- Protecting our historic villages with their residences and small scale businesses;
- Acting with foresight so as to sustain these qualities for future generations.

# 2003 MASTER PLAN

## GOALS BY PLANNING ELEMENT

### Cultural Resources

- Preserve and promote protection of historic resources.

### Housing

- Allow a variety of housing options that meet the needs of Egremont residents, are in scale with community character, and minimize the effects of growth in the town.

### Natural Resources and Open Space

- Preserve aesthetically and environmentally sensitive areas and water supplies.

### Economic Development

- Maintain the balance between residential and commercial uses protecting the rural character of the town, avoiding commercial sprawl, and offering appropriate services and conveniences for residents and seasonal visitors.

### Services and Facilities

- Maintain adequate and cost-effective Town services.

### Circulation

- Protect and preserve the rural character of Egremont's roads, while maintaining a safe, economical, and efficient transportation system, suitable to the scale of the Town.

# 2003 MASTER PLAN

## GOALS FOR THE VILLAGES

### North Egremont Village

- Retain the rural and historic quality of the North Egremont Village.
- Preserve North Egremont's village center by supporting small-scale services which serve local needs and function as a village gathering place.
- Preserve health and safety in North Egremont Village, including water quality, pedestrian safety, and traffic control.

### South Egremont Village

- Maintain the scale, distinctive historic character and the natural attributes of South Egremont Village.
- Promote South Egremont as a walking village with a community feel.
- Promote improvements to the environmental health and safety of South Egremont village.



## 2003 MASTER PLAN

# GOALS FOR THE RURAL AREAS

- Encourage preservation of open spaces of all types, including agricultural areas, forest lands, meadows, open fields, ridge tops and wetlands.
- Preserve the rural character and scale of the town, including roadways, historical sites and low housing density.
- Where growth occurs in the rural areas, it should be residential, allowing other uses only if they are low impact and in keeping with the residential and open space character.
- Address the special needs of the high density development area on the west side of Prospect Lake.

**What is still relevant?**

**What has changed since 2003?**

**Of those changes, which have implications for the vision and goals for Egremont over the next 10-15 years?**

# WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?

## OPEN SPACE

- Conservation land
- Forested land
- Agricultural land
- Athletic Fields
- Playgrounds
- Small / Pocket parks
- Scenic roadways
- Undeveloped land of conservation / recreation interest

## RECREATION

- Passive:
  - Hiking
  - Walking
  - Nature study
- Active:
  - Soccer
  - Baseball
  - Tennis
  - Dog Park

## HISTORIC/CULTURAL

- Historic Sites and Buildings



# WHAT IS AN OSRP?

- Roadmap for prioritizing open space and recreation projects and expenditures
- Pre-Requisite for MA Division of Conservation Services grants
- OSRP Components
  - Plan Summary and Introduction
  - Community Setting
  - Environmental Inventory
  - Inventory of Lands
  - Community Goals
  - Analysis of Needs
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Seven-Year Action Plan
  - Public Comments
  - ADA Inventory
- Public Process



## 2001 OSRP - VISION STATEMENT

For the future, as a Town, we are committed to:

- Preserving our rural Berkshire character and our rich natural and cultural heritage
- Enhancing our historic villages with their residences and small-scale businesses
- Fostering a strong spirit of community that recognizes the diversity of our residents and their needs and desires
- Acting with foresight so as to sustain these qualities for future generations

# PROGRESS SINCE 2001

- Recent protection of Bow Wow Woods
- Egremont Land Trust has successfully protected key properties
- Agricultural Preservation Restrictions used to protect farmland
- Jug End fen restoration
- Implemented zoning provisions for common driveways
- Catamount Ski Area has diversified to year-round activities
- Trailhead parking provided at Jug End
- Green River access improved with ELT acquisition of property off Route 71



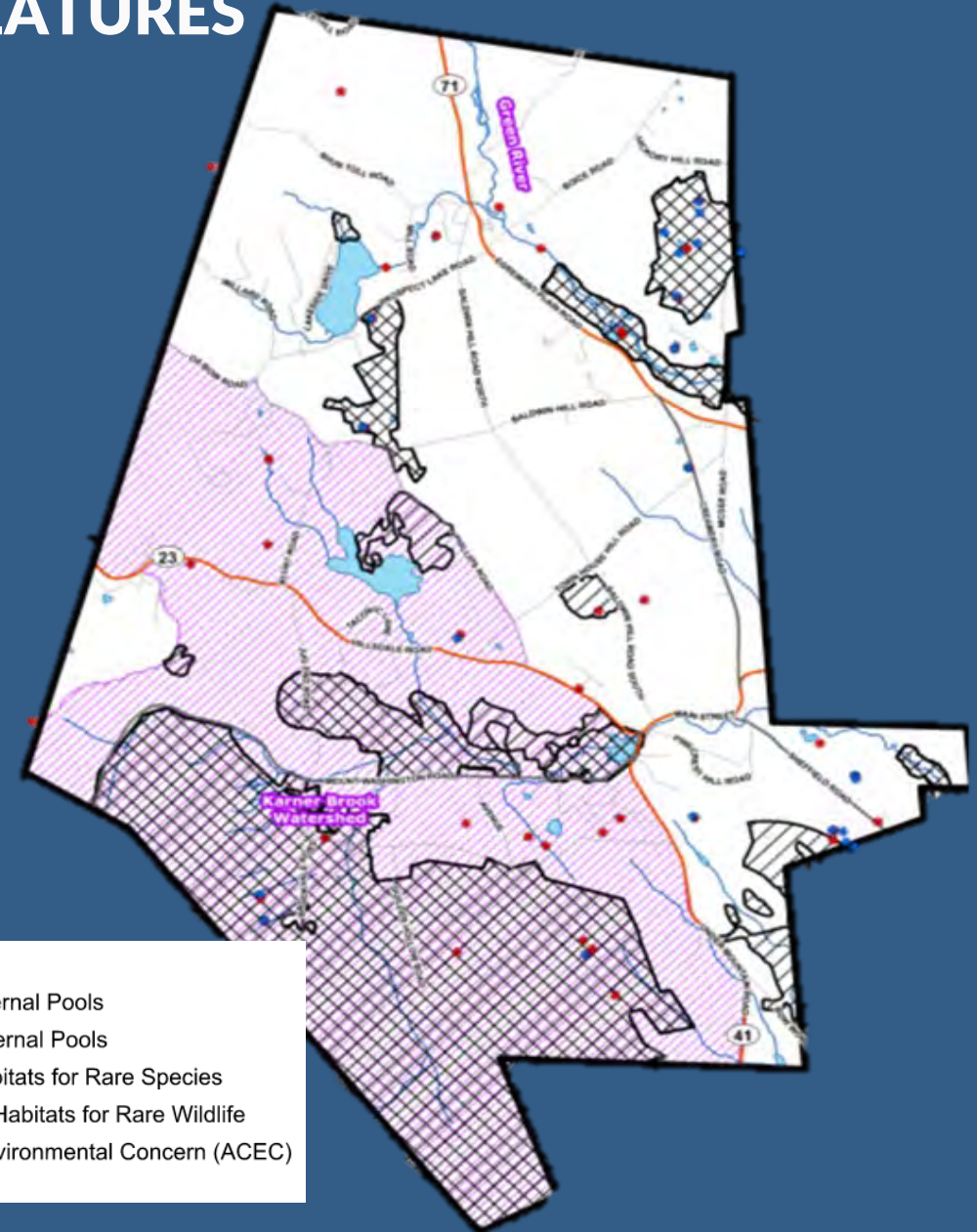
# EXISTING CONDITIONS - KEY NATURAL FEATURES

## Existing Features:

- Acres of Land – 12,057
- Acres of Water – Approx. 128

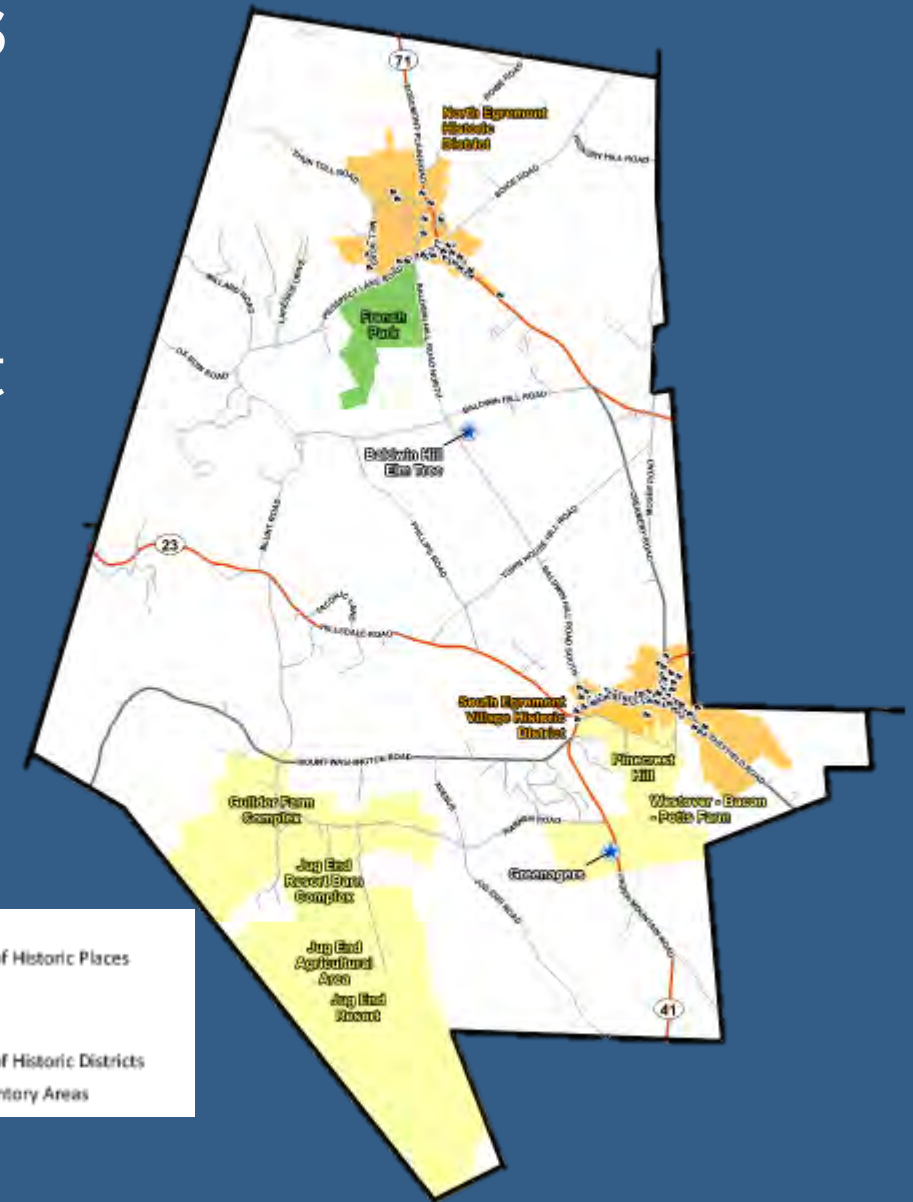
## Key Natural Features:

- Karner Brook Watershed
  - Area of Critical Environmental Concern
  - Approx. 700 Acres of wetlands
- Rare and Endangered Species Habitat
- Green River
- Prospect Lake



# EXISTING CONDITIONS - UNIQUE FEATURES

- French Park
- South Egremont Village Historic District
- North Egremont Historic District
- Jug End Reservation
- Appalachian Trail
- Baldwin Hill Elm Tree
- Catamount Ski Resort
- Greenagers

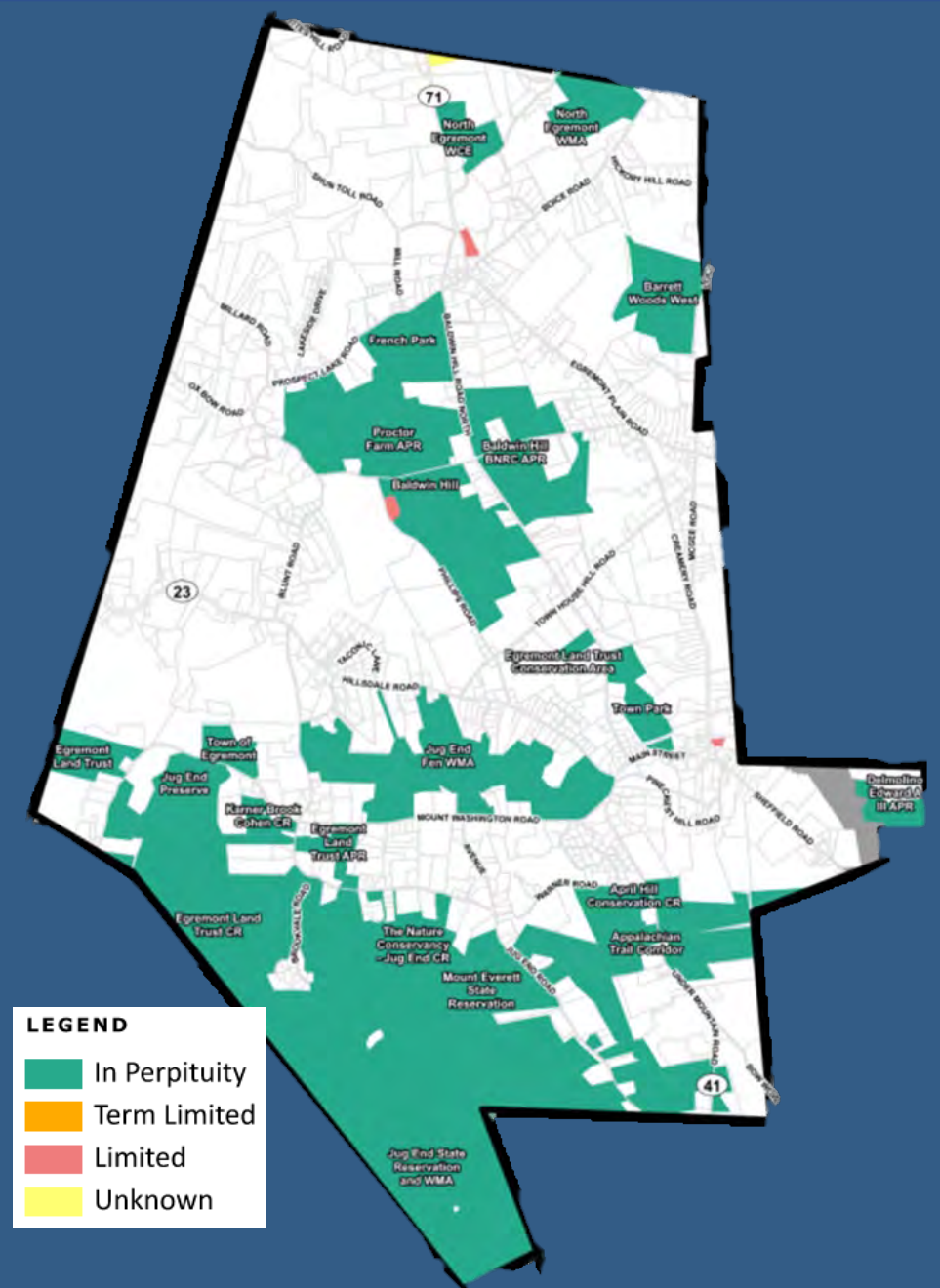


LEGEND	
◆	National Register of Historic Places
★	Unique Location
■	French Park
■	National Register of Historic Districts
■	Mass Historic Inventory Areas



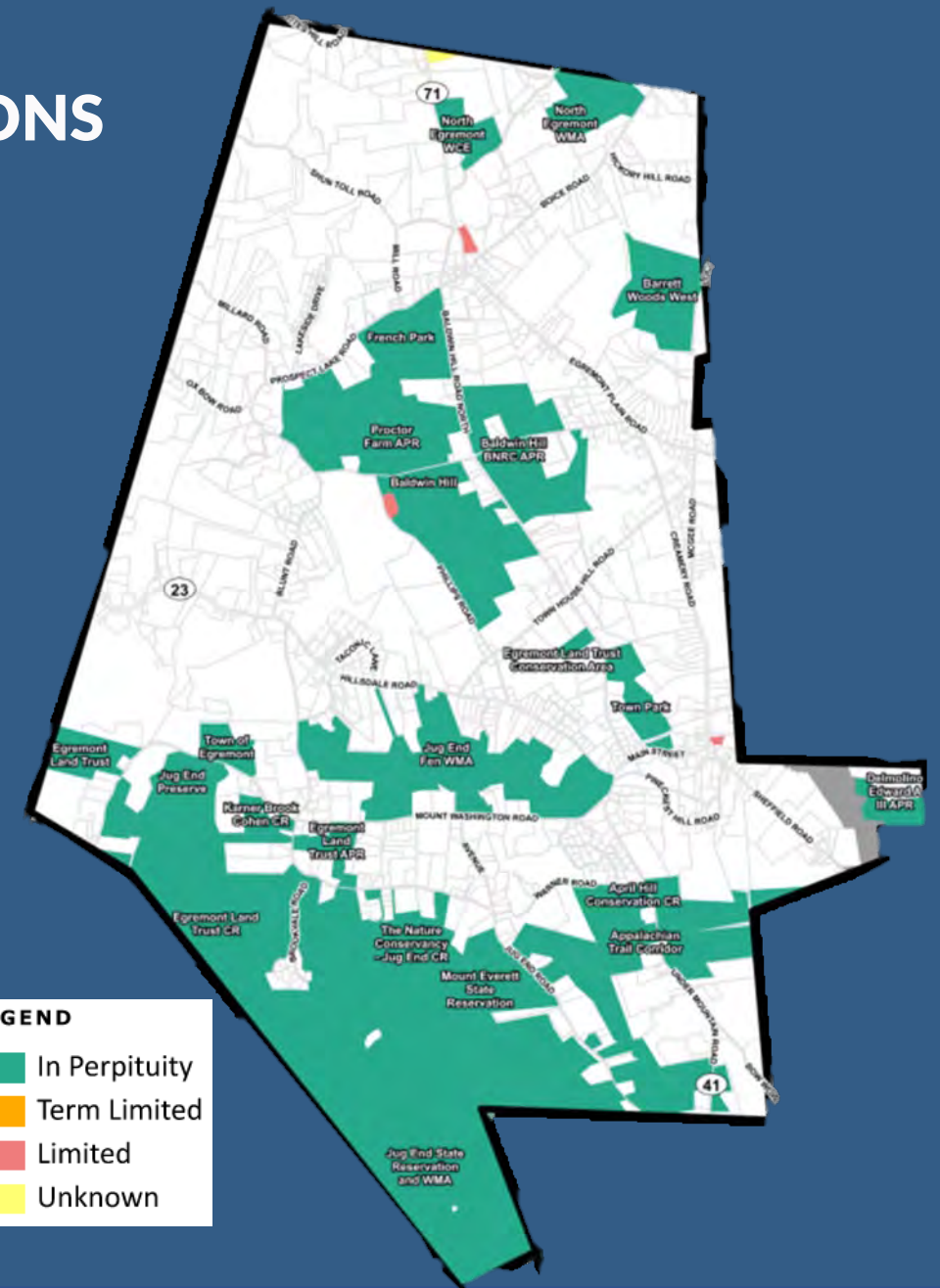
# EXISTING CONDITIONS – KEY OPEN SPACE BY OWNERSHIP

Owner	Parcels	Acreage
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	4	26
Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc.	1	50
Berkshire Village Inc.	1	10.6
Blue Rider Stables	3	12.15
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	17	1619.8
Egremont Land Trust	7	77
Egremont Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.	2	1.8
Town of Egremont	15	523
Greenagers, Inc.	2	99.2
Mt. Everett Cemetery Association	1	2.77
Mt. Everett Reservation	1	16
The Nature Conservancy	11	190.5
United States of America	6	95.2
USA Appalachian Trail	10	195.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2919.5</b>



# EXISTING CONDITIONS – AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS

Agricultural Preservation Restriction	Parcels	Acreage
Egremont Land Trust APR	1	24.57
Baldwin Hill BNRC APR	7	367.98
Kellogg AFT APR	1	49.52
Curtiss SLT APR	1	12.13
Proctor Farm APR	2	269.3
Delmolino Edward A III APR	1	38.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>762.34</b>



**LEGEND**

- In Perpetuity
- Term Limited
- Limited
- Unknown

# ARE THE 2001 OSRP GOALS STILL RELEVANT?

1. Encourage the protection and management of open space
2. Preserve and support agricultural uses
3. Preserve and improve the ecological integrity of sensitive natural environments and natural resources
4. Preserve, maintain, and improve the quality of water resources
5. Protect and preserve the character of Egremont's scenic rural roads
6. Meet community needs for outdoor recreation facilities

# TODAY'S WORKSHOP!

## STATIONS

## ACTION/PURPOSE

- 1 Data → Egremont by the numbers.
- 2 Preserve → What do you value about living/working here? Does it need protection?
- 3 Enhance → What could be better? What's missing? How do you think about change?
- 4 Enjoy → What do you do for fun in Egremont? How and where do people in Egremont engage with each other? What's missing?
- 5 Support → What is needed to support the things you identified at the other stations?
- 6 Banner → For children! Draw what you love about Egremont now and what you want to see in Egremont in 10 years.

# WORKSHOP ON MARCH 11 (Snow date March 18)



Draft vision and goals based on today's meeting and the questionnaire. (Why)



Draft recommendations: Strategies, Policies, and Actions. (What)  
Identify potential land use and zoning changes, if appropriate.



How To: Implementation (Who, When, How, How Much, How Funded)  
Measuring Progress

# NEXT STEPS



Review input from today's meeting.  
Questionnaire closes January 28.



Present results of the workshop and survey to joint committees.  
Discuss draft recommendations for March workshop.



Discuss draft recommendations and implementation plan components. Includes what, who, when, and in some cases, financing sources.  
Second community survey to test draft recommendations.



Present results of workshop and survey to the committees (separate meetings).  
Prepare, present, and discuss draft plans.  
Revise plans for separate approval processes.

**Thank you!**



Innes Associates Ltd.

