

Shoreline Times (Shorelinetimes.com)

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Opinion

## Letter: Saybrook resident says, 'Do the right thing Madison'

Thursday, December 17, 2009

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To the Editor:

I took the opportunity to tour this property on Saturday, Dec. 12 with Heather Crawford (coastal ecologist, with the Town of Madison Conservation Commission) and approximately 20 others. I was very impressed by this jewel that is nearly surrounded by State lands, including Hammonasset State Park, and the Hammonasset River. It became abundantly clear to me that this is a unique parcel because of the diverse ecosystems that are present and the diversity of life it supports. It has importance not only locally, but also at regional and global levels. In these times of concern about the health of the planet, not to preserve this land as open space with its rare coastal forest would be irresponsible and short-sighted. Housing and its negative environmental impacts would only degrade it. Pollutants and fresh water run-off entering the Hammo River would negatively impact the marshes that protect us in times of storms and floods and threaten Long Island Sound. If you have a Long Island Sound license plate, you should be supporting the purchase of this property by the Town of Madison!

I realize that many Madison residents are concerned about how the purchase of the land by the Town would affect their taxes. The figure that was given was \$68 to \$85 per year for 20 years, based on a median home value of \$500,000. I do not live in Madison, but I frequent Hammonasset State Park. I would GLADLY pay that annually to the town to support the purchase, remediation and preservation of this property adjacent to Hammo. It's that important. I'm betting there are many, many others from out of town who would step up as well.

If you didn't make it this past weekend to tour the Griswold Airport property, there will be additional opportunities before the referendum in January. I urge anyone who is undecided or in doubt to contact Heather Crawford, [info@madisonconservationcommission.org](mailto:info@madisonconservationcommission.org) and learn about why it is so important to preserve it. The Town of Madison is in a position to save a significant parcel of land from development. DO THE RIGHT THING, Madison!!

Jan Hamilton

Old Saybrook

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