



# TOWN OF WELLFLEET

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## Wellfleet Selectboard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wellfleet, Massachusetts, April 15, 2022

## Wellfleet Acts to Make a Meaningful Dent in Our Housing Crisis



The Wellfleet Selectboard is excited to bring an opportunity before the town voters to provide some relief for those searching for affordable housing in our community. After months of meetings and conversations the Board has signed a purchase and sale agreement with the owners of Maurice's Campground to purchase their 21.25 acres of land for the Town of Wellfleet.

The driving force behind wanting to make this purchase is to help with the lack of affordable and workforce housing affecting towns across the Cape and especially Wellfleet. The Selectboard believes town residents should participate in shaping the future of this unique property. The Town will hold a special town meeting currently scheduled for September 10th, 2022 to consider authorizing this purchase.

According to Selectboard Chair Ryan Curley, "The purchase of Maurice's Campground is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the Town of Wellfleet".

The Gauthier family has owned the Campground since 1949 and are happy to partner with the town to make this a reality. The three brothers, who currently own and run the campground, worked with their dad to build the cottages and store themselves. While there has been significant interest in this property by developers the Gauthiers feel it is in the best interest of the Town to be able to continue the tradition of providing housing that will be affordable for people who live and work here.

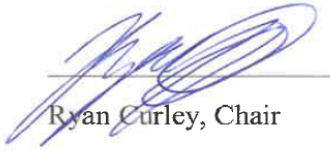
The Town has signed a purchase and sale agreement for the property for \$6.5M, with a closing date on Oct. 31, 2022 pending Town Meeting approval. The Town will continue to run the campground and receive the revenue generated for at least 6 years while the planning and permitting processes take place. The Gauthiers want to ensure that the 140 families who have used the park for recreation each summer have an adjustment period while the Town has the time to figure out the best plan for this land. Both the Town and the Gauthiers want to ensure the seasonal workers who currently live there will continue to have a place to live while the process moves forward.

Wellfleet's lack of affordable year-round housing has been well documented in the Town's 2017 Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan. By State standards, Wellfleet's Affordable Housing constitutes 2.5% of total housing, the lowest percentage on the Cape. The State goal is 10%. Year-round housing has been lost to seasonal ownership and short-term rentals while prices have skyrocketed. Local year-round rentals are virtually nonexistent. In particular, Wellfleet is losing young families at an alarming rate.

Updates and additional information regarding this will be available as the process goes forward.

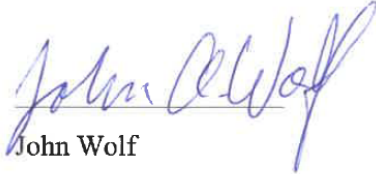
Sincerely,

Wellfleet Selectboard



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Ryan Curley, Chair



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John Wolf



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Michael DeVasto



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Helen Miranda Wilson