



The Trustees of Reservations  
200 High Street | Boston, MA 02110

April 6, 2018

Mr. Robert Treat Paine Storer III, President  
Thomas M. Paine, Vice President  
Friends of Stonehurst  
100 Robert Treat Paine Drive  
Waltham, MA 02452

Dear Mr. Storer and Mr. Paine,

It is with great consternation that I write to you concerning the future of Stonehurst. The 109-acre estate property and the 25.5-acre Chesterbrook Woods parcel represent a critical preservation and land conservation area at the core of the former 400-acre Paine Estate, and its progenitor, the Vale. These two parcels should not be considered as two separate tax lots, but instead considered as a continuous whole, which is compromised by the loss of any single acre.

When the design of the estate was conceived in 1866, it continued a long tradition of country estate design started in 1793 with The Vale, the Theodore Lyman Estate. As Lyman's children and grandchildren inherited portions of their family land, they built upon the legacy of their forefather. As such, these critical 134.5 acres are the scion of The Vale's English Landscape traditions, sculpted by a landscape master and dedicated descendants into another generation of field, forest and pleasure ground. As the ultimate gift for the citizens of Waltham, precious dollars purchased these critical acres 1974 and 2001, entrusting the City to continue the Lyman-Paine legacy of landscape management.

Robert Treat Paine's estate, begun in 1884 with advice from leading landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, was a compilation of creative landscape genius built upon the combined legacy of the Vale and Olmsted's recent country seat work at Moraine Farm (1880) for the Phillips family. At Stonehurst, the latest advances in farming and forestry were combined with a landscape of leisure, each element meant to complement, and not dominate, the estate design. At the time, the Vale was considered one of the earliest, great landscapes of the Boston area. When Charles Eliot visited the Vale in 1889, just as Stonehurst emerged as its own country seat, Eliot wrote, "Many photographs... could only partially illustrate the beauty and variety of the larger scenery of the estate...Here is abundant proof that if Nature is helped and not forced, she will make for us scenery which shall grow to more and more loveliness and character as the years pass."

Stonehurst was clearly designed in this same fashion. From the siting of the house, to the subtle manipulation of topography, to lessons in forestry management and viewshed design, Olmsted (and Eliot) advised the Paine family, polishing former farm fields and woodlots into a secluded, nature-enhanced country seat. For this reason, the woodlands and natural areas became as important to the

cultural landscape as the house terrace and gardens. Offering shelter, seclusion and private wilderness, trails through these natural areas offered ever-changing passages of scenery that became more and more precious to life in a quickly urbanizing City of Waltham, and, remarkably, survived throughout the twentieth century.

The family's transfer of the 109-acre property to the City of Waltham in 1974 was intended for recreational and conservation purpose, further recognition that its woodlands, meadows and wild lands were as important to the site experience as the designed lawns and gardens closer to the house. When the Chesterbrook Woods parcel was reunited with the Paine Estate in 2001, it furthered these same ideals, to preserve the scenic woodlands, wetlands and wildlands as an extension of the National Landmark.

These acres are investments that cannot be separated, bartered or traded. They are as inseparable from their historic design intent and their conservation habitat as each generation of the Lyman-Paine family is tied to each other. Each acre is a link in a common chain of preservation, conservation and scenery where Nature is helped, not forced. To build a new high school on the Chesterbrook Woods parcel would infinitely mar the integrity of this Landmark estate and its precious cultural and natural legacy.

With you, I urge the City of Waltham to consider other alternatives for the high school, and to protect and preserve these acres of heritage landscape for generations to come.

Ardently,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lucinda A. Brockway". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized 'L' and 'B'.

Lucinda (Cindy) Brockway

Program Director for Cultural Resources

The Trustees