

No. R-207. House concurrent resolution honoring the Unsworth family for its generous donation of 160-plus acres of undeveloped land to the Town of Essex.

(H.C.R.168)

Offered by: Representatives Redmond of Essex, Bancroft of Westford, Giambatista of Essex, Houghton of Essex, and Myers of Essex

Whereas, an undisputed jewel in the Town of Essex is the 500-plus acre Indian Brook Park, located contiguously to Winooski Valley Park District land in Essex and Colchester, and

Whereas, the Unsworth family, through its Indian Brook Properties LLP, owned extensive, undeveloped land adjacent to Indian Brook Park, and

Whereas, over the years, the Unsworth family has generously allowed hunters, loggers, neighbors, the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, and others seeking an outdoor recreational opportunity to access the family's land, and

Whereas, the Unsworth family had decided to subdivide a portion of the property into residential lots, and both the Town of Essex and the State inquired if the family would consider preserving the important natural resources located on the segment of land not planned for immediate residential subdivision, and

Whereas, the family agreed to preserve the 160-plus acres not being subdivided and decided the best way to achieve this goal was to donate the land to the Town of Essex, and

Whereas, these 160-plus acres are home to agricultural soils, streams, and wetlands and are the southern end of a large habitat block extending north into Colchester and Milton, and

Whereas, receipt of the Unsworth property meets several natural resources-related goals of the 2016 Essex Town Plan, including protecting the agricultural and forest lands, scenic views, and water quality and preventing the fragmentation of large undeveloped parcels, and

Whereas, the Town of Essex is thrilled to be the recipient of this wonderful gift of undeveloped land from the Unsworth family, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Unsworth family for its generous donation of 160-plus acres of undeveloped land to the Town of Essex, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Unsworth family and to the Essex Town Clerk.