

Article 17 at Town Meeting on Sept. 12, is for the purchase of the north-south CSX corridor which is slated to become part of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

It is important to acquire the CSX corridor for three reasons: protect it from being bought by a utility and turned into another utility corridor, that is another Eversource; protecting Sudbury's water supply; and preserving the land for use as a recreational trail.

There are strong reasons to make the purchase now. First, the town has secured \$400,000 in "Use it or Lose It" DCR grants specifically for the purchase. Those grants will cover 1/3 of the purchase price, a good deal by any standard. Second, the opportunity to negotiate for the purchase will disappear at the end of the year due to a change in Federal law. Third, at the end of this year the corridor may become fragmented, making it difficult, if not impossible, to acquire the corridor in continuity.

Securing ownership of the CSX corridor now is vital because the conditions that make its acquisition favorable will disappear at the end of this year, and will not be available to us again in the future.

I respectfully ask that you join me in voting "Yes" on Article 17, Acquisition of the CSX Corridor, at Town Meeting on Sept. 17. It will make Sudbury a stronger, more livable and prosperous community for generations to come.

— **Len Simon, Sudbury**