



Stewards  
For the  
Coastal Environment

## Salt Ponds Coalition

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Preserving our coastal ponds: Point Judith, Potter, Card, Trustom, Green Hill, Ninigret, Quonochontaug, Winnapaug, Maschaug, Little Maschaug

Charlestown Town Council  
Tom Gentz, President  
4540 South County Trail  
Charlestown, RI 02813

August 12, 2013

To President Tom Gentz and the Charlestown Town Council:

We at Salt Ponds Coalition write this letter to support the Town of Charlestown's purchase of the 78-acre lot AP 17 Lot 186, in the amount \$2.114 million, for open space.



As seen in this image, the parcel (brown polygon at top center) is almost entirely located within the watershed of Ninigret Pond (the watershed is indicated with light green shading; data source: RIGIS). In addition, there is a stream that runs through the eastern end of the parcel from the north, which then passes under US Route 1, enters King Tom Pond, and then flows into Ninigret Pond at Fort Neck Cove.

Ninigret Pond is an ecologically and economically important coastal lagoon. The Pond supports commercial aquaculture, plus commercial and recreational shellfishing. It attracts many residents and visitors who enjoy fishing, boating, swimming, and paddling in its waters. Thus, the Pond contributes significant revenue to the town, through tourism and by supporting high property values on its shores.

We at Salt Ponds Coalition believe that preserving this parcel as open space would be beneficial to water quality in the pond. Ninigret Pond is under stress from residential development and storm water runoff; maintaining this parcel as open space within the pond's watershed rather than allowing it to be developed prevents an additional source of nutrients and other pollutants which negatively impact the Pond.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this open space acquisition.

Art Ganz  
President, Salt Ponds Coalition