“It takes a community to do land conservation” This sentence is on a kiosk at Pleasant Hill Preserve in Scarborough recognizing the town of Scarborough and over 400 citizens who donated money to purchase and preserve the land. That kiosk list reminds us every time that good things can be achieved through hard work and focus.

In South Portland, neighborhoods, communities, and individual citizens along with the Conservation commission are advocating for *preservation* of the limited green spaces that are still in the city. It’s not a case of limiting development while decrying “Not in my backyard”, but more democratically “Not in anybody’s backyard”. The pandemic, quarantine and subsequent flood of people into the embrace of Nature has fully driven home this fundamental need in addition to shining a white-hot spotlight on environmental and social justice issues related to land use. Climate change increases our understanding of the need for trees and fully functioning ecosystems. A diverse community, human and non-human, is a resilient one. South Portland supports the tenets of conservation, but that is no longer sufficient. We must be preservation strong. Please join the Conservation Commission, your neighbors and community and be a champion for green and open spaces in your city.

"*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world*; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

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