

Potential sale of former Girl Scout camp in Meredith heads to court

By John Koziol Union Leader Correspondent Aug 23, 2026 Updated 1 hr ago

In a case with some potentially interesting legal implications, a judge in Massachusetts on Monday will consider whether the \$18 million sale of a former Girl Scout camp on Lake Winnepesaukee in Meredith should be approved to a developer who wants to build upscale homes on the land.

At 8:30 a.m. in Middlesex Probate and Family Court in Woburn, Mass., Judge Carla Salvucci is scheduled to hear motions in the case of “Re: Camp Menotomy Trust.”

The camp is located at 386 Meredith Neck Road.

According to Meredith municipal assessing records, the 95.38-acre parcel, which includes 4,500 feet of waterfront on Lake Winnepesaukee, has a “total market value” of \$15,372,700; the land itself is valued at \$15,036,100.

The camp operated from 1939 until 2020. It had originally been owned, according to Meredith assessing records, by the Girl Scouts of Arlington, Mass., now the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts.

In 1961, the ownership of the camp was transferred to the Camp Menotomy Trust of Arlington for zero dollars.

Last October, the camp trustees, in conjunction with the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., filed a General Trust Petition with the Middlesex Probate and Family Court seeking authorization to sell it to Menotomy Development LLC, and according to court documents, to confirm “that the sale fulfills the Trustees’ duty to the beneficiary, the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts.”

Attorneys for the trustees wrote that the camp has not been in operation for six years and that the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc. “has determined operation of the camp is no longer feasible due to, among other reasons, its overly rustic condition and lack of appeal to modern Girl Scouts. In addition, there are three other camps run by the Girl Scouts in Eastern Massachusetts, Inc. in New England, including one in New Hampshire.”

Menotomy Development LLC has said it wants to build seven waterfront homes, which would be known as “The Preserve at Whispering Pines,” and to dedicate 28.5 acres for conservation, including trails and historical markers.

Opponents of the sale argue that the Menotomy trustees have failed to do their due diligence in finding a buyer and that they have violated the letter and intent of the camp’s founders in that it remain a camp, in perpetuity.

Several parties have sought to be intervenors in the case before Salvucci, among them Eric Carlson, who owns and operates the for-profit Camp Quinebarge on Lake Kanasatka in Moultonborough.

Carlson thinks Menotomy should remain a camp and toward that end he has offered to lease it from the Girl Scouts in Eastern Massachusetts and also to pay for several million dollars' worth of improvements.

The sale of Camp Menotomy is supported by the Public Charities Division of the Attorney General of Commonwealth of Massachusetts.