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State surfaces as top bidder for 843-acre parcel in Tolland

Boston Business Journal - by Craig M. Douglas

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The state of Massachusetts has emerged as the leading candidate to buy an undeveloped, 843-acre parcel bordering the Farmington River and a sizable man-made lake in Tolland, Mass.

The Round Up [first reported in October that the property](#) was slated for a so-called "reserve auction," whereby the seller can reject a winning bid. On Oct. 21, the day after the scheduled auction, the property's broker, **Jeremy Freid** of Great Rock Real Estate in Boston, said [a bid had been accepted and a formal purchase and sale agreement](#) was being hammered out. At the time, he declined to identify the winning bidder.

This week, Great Rock's website said the Tolland property was under contract. During a call Tuesday, Freid declined to comment on the deal's progress to date. "We have a fiduciary duty to our client," he said.

Nonetheless, a state official confirmed Monday that the commonwealth is indeed in the mix and has been in sale discussions with the property's owner, [a Massachusetts-based LLC listing a trio of New York-based principals](#) including controversial class-action attorney **Melvyn I. Weiss**.

Wendy Fox, the press secretary for the state's Department of Recreation and Conservation, said those negotiations are ongoing, although no formal paperwork has been prepared to date. "It would make for lovely parkland," Fox said. "Beyond that, we have no comment."

Roughly 85 miles from Boston, the undeveloped property was originally marketed as a single parcel as well as subdividable lots, each with water frontage. In addition to bordering the Farmington River, the property includes Tolland's 125-acre Twining Lake.