

Subject: Freddie Gillespie: Reappointment to Open Space Commission



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to Andrew Dennington, Andrew Pfaff, Chris Cremeans, Kathy Cook, Mark Purple, Sam Stivers, Tim Fling, Frederica Gille: ▼

To the Southborough Board of Selectmen (Appointing Authority for OSPC):

I am writing as a member of the Southborough Planning Board to offer my full support for the reappointment of Freddie Gillespie to the Open Space Preservation Commission. This one is easy for me. Freddie is one of the most valued partners I have in this work, and Southborough is a better town because of her.

Freddie does not just advocate from a distance. She shows up. She takes the time to read plans carefully, sit through hearings, and work directly with developers including St. Mark's, Peter Beemis, David Ferris, and others to find solutions that work for everyone. That kind of hands-on engagement makes a real difference in the quality of decisions the Planning Board can make.

Her guidance has shaped some of our most important work. When we were navigating MBTA Communities zoning, Freddie came to us with Mass Audubon's ranked parcel data and a clear-eyed warning about protecting priority open space before rising land values took those options off the table. When 120 Turnpike Road came before us, she led her commission to engage constructively, pushing for meaningful ecological improvements and securing additional conservation land in the process. That is who Freddie is. She does not dig in to block things. She works to make things better.

After 26 years of this kind of dedication, Freddie's institutional knowledge and relationships are simply irreplaceable. The Planning Board needs her at the table. I hope you will reappoint her without hesitation.

Respectfully,

Marnie Hoolahan

Member, Southborough Planning Board