

# Subject: Letter of Support for Freddie Gillespie's reappointment to the Stewardship Committee



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to Select Board ▾

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**[EXTERNAL]**

Dear Select Board members,

I previously served as a member of the Southborough Stewardship Committee from 2017-2022. During my time with Stewardship, I witnessed first-hand the contributions Freddie Gillespie made to open space, and in particular the Breakneck Hill Conservation Land (BHCL), as the Open Space Preservation Commission representative to Stewardship. For example, she spent countless hours meeting contractors and doing other tasks to help the Stewards with their charge of balancing conservation and passive recreation uses at BHCL. Of note, she developed a working relationship with Dr. Robert Gegear to study and create habitat for at-risk pollinators, leading tours with local butterfly and birding clubs, and working with experts to identify the most effective and safest methods to address invasives such as bittersweet and porcelain berry. She has mentored several scouts to successfully complete Eagle Scout projects at Breakneck Hill. Ms. Gillespie is the kind of volunteer that Southborough needs desperately.

I see that the Selectboard will be voting on Ms. Gillespie's re-appointment to the Open Space Preservation Commission Tuesday evening.

I urge the Select Board to consider Ms. Gillespie's contributions, expertise, and tireless efforts to promote meaningful open space for passive recreation and habitat restoration. I think Southborough residents care about these things, and want committed volunteers to be supported. Volunteering is often hard work and thankless. Withholding her re-appointment would send a message that volunteering in town is not valued, and would seriously undermine Stewardship and its mission.

Thank you for your time.

Jenny Peet  
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