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Date: June 16, 2026

To: The Southborough Select Board

Subject: Support for the Reappointment of Freddie Gillespie Open Space Preservation Commission

Dear Members of the Select Board,

I am writing to express my support for the reappointment of Freddie Gillespie to the Open Space Preservation Commission.

Town surveys consistently indicate that families choose to live in Southborough because of our expansive open spaces, robust outdoor recreation and excellent schools. These interconnected assets define our town's high quality of life, maintain stable property values, and foster a vibrant community spirit. Protecting them requires dedicated, experienced leadership.

Over her extensive tenure, Ms. Gillespie has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to protecting Southborough's natural landscapes, balancing complex zoning demands, and championing the environmental health of our community. As a member of the Planning Board, I can honestly say that Ms. Gillespie advises on delicate matters where development and land conservation intersect, including dense housing initiatives and Chapter 61 land classifications.

While our boards may look at land use through different municipal lenses, Ms. Gillespie's evidence-based advocacy ensures that open space preservation is always given rigorous, thorough consideration. Her deep institutional knowledge of areas like the Breakneck Hill Conservation Land and her proactive community program are desired and invaluable assets that the Town cannot afford to lose.

Losing her expertise would create a significant void in our town's open space management and inter-board collaborations. I urge the Select Board to vote in favor of her reappointment so that Southborough may continue to benefit from her dedicated public service.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie DeMuria, PharmD

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