

Subject: re-appointment of Freddie Gillespie



Robert Gegear <rgegear@umassd.edu>
to Select Board, Frederica Gillespie ▾

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[EXTERNAL]

Dear members of the Southborough Select Board,

I am writing to support the re-appointment of Freddie Gillespie to the Southborough Open Space Preservation Commission.

I have known Freddie for over a decade during my tenure as a Biology & Biotechnology Professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and as a Biology Professor at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. My research focuses, in part, on the conservation and restoration of native biological systems, with particular emphasis on animal pollination systems critical for maintaining ecosystem functioning and services. I have worked with Freddie at Breakneck Hill Conservation Land and other open spaces in Southborough to collect valuable landscape-level ecological data on plant and animal species at significant risk of local extinction. Freddie's dedication and position on the Stewardship Committee and the Open Space Preservation Commission, combined with her superior ability to maintain and motivate a dedicated team of volunteers, has enabled the transformation of Breakneck Hill from an impenetrable monoculture of invasive plants to highly diverse and thriving native ecosystem that is utilized by a wide range of Southborough residents, including hikers, dog walkers, bird watchers, and nature lovers. Freddie has worked tirelessly to promote Southborough and its progressive approach to land management and conservation to various groups throughout New England, including private and public land managers, garden groups, and conservation organizations. Consequently, Breakneck Hill is now widely viewed as a prime example of how public green spaces can be effectively utilized in a positive way.

I strongly believe that Freddie has the dedication, leadership skills and resident support to make a positive impact on the town of Southborough for years to come. I therefore strongly support her re-appointment to the Open Space Preservation Commission.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert J. Gegear

Associate Professor, Department of Biology, UMASS Dartmouth

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