

9/24 (4)

Christine Joyce

From: William Mullin [WMullin@wcu.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2012 10:29 AM
To: Board of Selectmen
Cc: Steve Ledoux; Charlie Aaronson; Bill Klauer; Andrew Magee; Doug Tindal; kcunkelman@noresco.com; Chip Orcutt; Tom Tidman; Ann Chang; 'pgrovs@gmail.com'; Walter Foster (office); Chuck Sullivan (chsullivan1@yahoo.com)
Subject: Morrison Farm Placeholder: Requested actions on Monday night

Hello-

I am greatly looking forward to giving you an update on the Morrison Farm Committee's (MFC) work to date. We have made excellent progress and are about 25% of the way to our goal of providing a very thorough plan to you all and, as it relates to certain elements, to the Community Preservation Committee.

I am on the run right now, but wanted to give you a "heads up". Per the instruction of the MFC, I, as chair, will be asking you to formally vote on two matters on Monday. Very quickly with more information to follow:

1. On behalf of the MFC, I ask that you authorize us to commence discussions with the Community Preservation Committee. This is a pretty technical thing, but we (the MFC) do not have "standing" to speak to the CPC on behalf of the Town. Of course, all plans and actions will ultimately come through the BoS, but this allows us to lay the groundwork.
2. The second item is to request your support in favor of a "usage swap", changing the designation of approximately 1.8 acres surrounding the Robbins Memorial from cemetery use to general municipal use (with a Historic use restriction to be placed after construction is complete) and approximately 2.0 acres at the northwest corner of the Morrison Farm to cemetery use from general municipal use.
 - We will provide more detail, but this area near Robbins Memorial cannot be used for burials because of a nearby well and it has not received the attention and care that it should. It is a natural link to the whole "living history" theme that we are talking about and is a once in a generation opportunity to preserve and enhance this special place.
 - If you get a second, you might want to go to the Robbins Memorial site and the Captain Robbins home's cellar hole, which is directly behind the memorial. Sadly, the very important cellar hole is overgrown and in disrepair, but our plan would take care of that problem forever.
 - We believe that this is a win/win/win for the cemetery, for the Morrison program and thus, for the town as a whole.

We will be supplying more info on Monday, but to me, these votes are critical path items to meeting our timelines and goals.

If this makes sense, I supply to you possible texts of motions.

1. Motion: that the Acton Board of Selectmen authorize the Morrison Farm Committee to commence discussions with the Community Preservation Committee, so as to keep the CPC apprised of the plans as they evolve.
2. Motion: that the Acton Board of Selectmen supports a "usage swap", changing the designation of approximately 1.8 acres surrounding the Robbins Memorial from cemetery use to general municipal use (with a Historic use restriction to be imposed after construction is complete) and approximately 2.0 acres at the northwest corner of the Morrison Farm to cemetery use from general municipal use; and, that the Acton Board of Selectman wishes the Morrison Farm Committee to create and execute a plan to accomplish this objective, fully cognizant that any "usage swap" will need to be approved by Town Meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am running around over the next several days, so my cellphone is best: 617-293-2976. Don't hesitate to call if you want to chat.

See you on Monday

Bill Mullin
Chair, Morrison Farm Committee



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