

5/24/10 (4)

Christine Joyce

From: William Mullin [William.Mullin@thorndikedevelopment.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:25 PM
To: Board of Selectmen
Cc: Andrew Magee; Walter Foster (office); Doug Tindal; Tom Tidman; Dean Charter
Subject: I support the Tom Tidman Plan for Morrison Farm

Hello Friends-

I hope you are all doing well.

Background

As you may know, I have been working, to varying degrees, on Morrison Farm over the last 14 years. I was honored to be the main presenter at Town Meeting when we got the capital article passed and have been involved lately assisting the Feasibility Study team with their process and analysis. Quite simply: I love this land and believe it to be an integral part of our very long term vision to create an Olmsteadian Emerald Necklace of our own here in Acton.

Regrettably, I will not be able to attend the meeting on the 24th. However, it is a happy occasion, as my daughter Maley will be graduating from Boston College!

My Opinion

The Feasibility Phase was extremely helpful and very well done. I extend my kudos to the Kelleher team. Their work led to the Tom Tidman Plan, which is a crystallization of the 14 years of input from myriad interested parties and the facts on the ground.

I strongly support the Tom Tidman Plan. I believe that the Plan 1) keeps faith to the original town meeting vote while, 2) very importantly, reflects the input of people over the last several years. To me, it is the perfect plan.

The Tidman Plan:

- Places a conservation restriction on 16 acres of forested land.
- Preserves a large meadow
- Accommodates agricultural uses
- Encourages active recreation near the pond, with the placement of small ballfields and a boardwalk
- Is able to tie into the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

- Connects with the East Acton Village plan, and
- Allows us to amp up the historical recognition of the Captain Robbins homesite, the Colonial-era farm and the Ice House pond site.

A Bias Toward Action

In terms of a go forward plan, I recommend that we get it done; 14 years of talking are enough. If you are able to embrace the concept of the Tom Tidman Plan, I am willing to help develop an Implementation and Cost Analysis Plan, perhaps to be delivered to you by about Labor Day. Then, you can decide how to move everything forward well in advance of deadlines for CPA submissions.

In sum,

- I regret that I will not be able to make the Morrison meeting on May 24th.
- I strongly endorse the conceptual Tom Tidman Plan.
- If you so choose, I am willing to work, in conjunction with staff, on developing the next phase of implementation plans and cost analyses with a tight delivery date of around Labor Day.
- If all goes well, I think the majority of work to realize the dream of 14 years ago, can be actualized by September of 2011.

As always, thank you for all your hard work on behalf of our Town. And, I want to thank the Kelleher team, our noble staff and of course, our volunteer members of the Feasibility Assessment team.

Sincerely,

Bill Mullin

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Please check out our new video "Red Mill Village: It's a Wonderful Life" at http://www.thorndikedevelopment.com/redmill/our_community.php