

Section 11: COMMENTS



TOWN OF GRAFTON

GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519

Telephone: (508) 839-5335 - ext. 180
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 19, 2007

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston MA 02214

RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007 - Letter of Support

Dear Ms Cryan:

At their meeting on March 20, 2007, the Grafton Board of Selectmen voted to express their full support for the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update for the Town of Grafton.

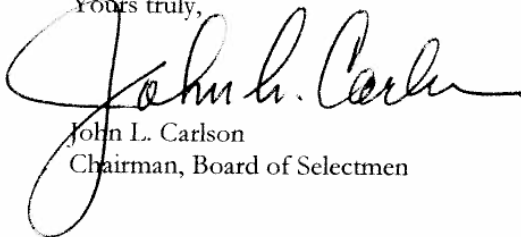
The previous plan was prepared in 1999 and this plan updates that information in accordance with the Division of Conservation Services Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements.

The plan embodies the principal aspirations of our town with respect to the conservation of our open space and the provision for active and passive recreational opportunities for our citizens, and we are confident that its fulfillment would contribute substantially to the quality of life we enjoy in Grafton.

The Board of Selectmen fully endorses this Plan and looks forward to helping support the many committees in the Town as they work towards turning many of the Plan's action items into achievements over the next five years.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Yours truly,



John L. Carlson
Chairman, Board of Selectmen



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GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519

Community Preservation Committee

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston MA 02214

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Grafton Community Preservation Committee (CPC) wishes to express its support for the Open Space and Recreation Plan update being submitted to your office for review and approval.

A year ago, the CPC urged Town Meeting to support the use of Community Preservation funds to update the plan. Since then, planning staff, outside consultants and a committee of volunteers worked diligently to collect information on existing open space and recreational assets as well as input from residents on their recreational and open space interests.

The result is a plan with a range of important action items that will enhance the quality of life for Grafton residents for generations to come.

The CPC looks forward to the plan's approval and is eager to work with the appropriate town and state agencies to help make the plan a reality.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joyce Kelley, Chairman
Grafton Community Preservation Committee



Grafton Conservation Commission

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston MA 02214

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Grafton Conservation Commission is pleased to express our full support for the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update for the Town of Grafton. The update provides a thoughtful and comprehensive look at Grafton's open space and recreation goals and needs, as well as an agenda of action items to guide us toward achieving those goals over the next five years.

Grafton residents have repeatedly shown their commitment to open space and recreation by supporting related actions at Town Meeting. Some of the Town's accomplishments since the last Plan Update include the creation of the Miscoe, Warren, Whitehall Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the adoption of the Community Preservation Act, the purchase and active management of the Hassanamesit Woods property and the acquisition of the Great Meadow property.

We encourage you to approve the 2007 Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. The Commission fully endorses this Plan and looks forward to helping turn many of the Plan's action items into achievements over the next five years.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Vigeant, Co-Chair
Grafton Conservation Commission

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PLANNING BOARD

March 13, 2007

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston MA 02214

RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007 - Letter of Support

Dear Ms Cryan:

At their meeting on Monday March 12, 2007, the Grafton Planning Board voted to express their full support for the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update for the Town of Grafton.

The plan embodies the principal aspirations of our town with respect to the conservation of our open space and the provision for active and passive recreational opportunities for our citizens, and we are confident that its fulfillment would contribute substantially to the quality of life we enjoy in Grafton.

The Planning Board fully endorses this Plan and looks forward to helping turn many of the Plan's action items into achievements over the next five years.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith A. Regan".

Keith Regan, Chairman
Grafton Planning Board

Grafton Historical Commission

Grafton Municipal Center
30 Providence Road
Grafton, MA 01519

February 22, 2007

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St.
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2007

Dear Ms. Cryan:

I am writing in support of the Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan (2007) which will soon be submitted to your office for review and approval.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee is submitting a document that will serve the Town of Grafton well in the next five years and beyond. The action items reflect the needs of the Town as expressed by its residents at open meetings and forums, through surveys and by research related to the continued trend of rapid growth of residential development in Grafton. The goals of the plan strive to meet the needs of the residents while at the same time preserving the important historical and rural character of Grafton.

The Historical Commission is pleased to support the plan and is eager to begin work on the action items it sponsored.

Thank you in advance for your support and approval of this plan.

Sincerely,



John R. Stephens
Chairman



Lawrence B. Adams Executive Director
Carl E. Hellstrom Transportation Manager
William V. Scanlan Community Dev. Manager
Paul J. Samara GIS Coordinator
John F. Knipe Commission Chairman

January 31, 2007

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02214

Dear Ms. Cryan:

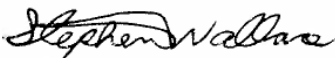
The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is writing this letter in support of the Town of Grafton and its recently completed Open Space & Recreation Plan. Although CMRPC provided some technical assistance for this effort, the all-volunteer Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee deserves the bulk of the credit for putting this Plan together.

The Committee has done a very thorough job and the final document appears to fully comply with the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. Grafton was an active participant in our 2003 trail investigation study entitled, Blackstone Valley Subregion Inter-Community Trail Connection Feasibility Study. Grafton's Open Space Plan will provide the Town with the opportunity to pursue some of the trail ideas contained in our study, as well as protect critical land areas from future development and/or over-development.

Please consider this letter to be a demonstration of CMRPC's support for the Plan and the process used to develop it. We find Grafton's Plan to be fully consistent with CMRPC's Regional Open Space & Recreation Plan as well as the conservation priorities outlined in our 2020 Growth Strategy for Central Massachusetts.

The Town of Grafton will be well served by having a State-approved up-to-date Plan for the provision of recreation facilities and programs, as well as the preservation and protection of its valuable open spaces and natural resources.

Sincerely,


Stephen Wallace
CMRPC Land Use Planner

C: Samantha Hobbs, Assistant Planner - Grafton

35 Harvard Street - Second Floor
Worcester, MA 01609-2801

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Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary
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tel 508.753.6087 • fax 508.755.0148 • email bmbrook@massaudubon.org

March 22, 2007

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St
Boston, MA 02214

Re: Town of Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan,

Mass Audubon strongly endorses the Town of Grafton's Open Space and Recreation Plan as updated, and is very impressed with its thoroughness, technical expertise, and public outreach efforts. It reflects very well the priorities of the town and the actions that need to take place in order to achieve its very important goals.

Of particular interest to Mass Audubon is the plan's in-depth consideration and prioritization of water quality and open space protection. Mass Audubon is the lead partner in the Blackstone River Coalition's Campaign for a Fishable/Swimmable Blackstone River by 2105, and this plan embodies the goals and objectives of the Campaign. Staff here at Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester work closely with the Town of Grafton and the Grafton Land Trust on Campaign issues. In addition, the plan dovetails beautifully with E.O.E.A.'s Blackstone River Watershed Action Plan.

Our hats are off to the Town of Grafton for developing this excellent plan and roadmap for the town's future.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Williams, Conservation Advocacy Coordinator

Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts

