

Commission Members

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Subject	Bare Meadow Proposed Dog Walking Exclusion

Message

To all Conservation Commission members:
It is with appreciation and respect that I acknowledge all Conservation Commission members, noting the considerable time and care they give to this effort.

Regarding the 2/28/24 Conservation Commission meeting concerning the proposal to exclude dog walkers from Bare Meadow:

Observations from the meeting

- The value and singularity of Bare Meadow to Commission members and the attending public is undisputed.
 - o Bare Meadow is an environmentally unique habitat for native flora and fauna
 - o It provides physical and mental health outcomes for users
 - o It has educational value
- The majority of daily usage of Bare Meadow is by dog walkers
- The suggested enforcement of a dog walking exclusion by gardeners and trail user will be difficult
 - o Gardeners are only found at 1 of 5 official property entrances
 - o There are an unknown number of unofficial property entrances
 - o Gardeners are only present for, at best, 6 months out of the year
 - o Trail walkers are not always, or even often, present
 - o Gardeners and trail walkers may not know about or be willing to accept enforcement responsibilities
- The value and stewardship of Bare Meadow will be reduced with a dog walking exclusion
 - o Dog walkers provide consistent oversight for property conditions
 - § Trail obstructions/storm damage
 - § Seasonally sensitive environmental conditions
 - § Unusual/inappropriate activity
 - o Individuals may not feel safe walking alone/without a dog
- The public is generally unaware and uninformed of the proposal to exclude dog walkers from Bare Meadow

Collaborate with dog walkers/Don't exclude

- Dog walkers and the Conservation Commission have a mutual

interest in maintaining Bare Meadow

- Dog walkers can be Bare Meadow's best advocates
- Educate the dog walkers and the public about care for BM/Conservation areas/all public Reading spaces
 - o The needs of Bare Meadow are not widely known
 - o Educate with talks at Library/CCTV/schools
 - o Enlist local veterinarians to educate about dog waste disposal
- Education about Bare Meadow can broaden the Conservation Committee's appeal to the general public

Respectfully submitted,
Donnan Barnes
Bancroft Ave

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