



Marine and Freshwater Quality Committee

December 6, 2023

Walter North, Chair

Community Preservation Committee

Re: 37 Eli Rogers Road - Community Preservation Committee Application

Dear Mr. North,

At its recent regularly scheduled monthly meeting on November 27th, 2023, the Marine and Freshwater Quality Committee (MFWQC) met with Stephen O'Grady, Executive Director of the Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT) to review OCT's application to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to acquire 37 Eli Rogers Rd, Orleans for conservation purposes.

The committee voted 6-0-2 to support OCT's application asking that \$300,000 be set aside in the CPC budget for the acquisition of 37 Eli Rogers Rd. The two member who recused themselves from the discussion and abstained from voting are Trustee Board Members of OCT.

Consistent with its charge to protect the Town's water resources, the MFWQ Committee fully supports this application for several reasons:

- The purchase will support wildlife through habitat protection and it will offer public access to open space for visitors and the community.
- The purchase will help protect sub-watersheds of the Pleasant Bay estuary such as Pah Wah Pond and Little Pleasant Bay by limiting septic nitrogen input to one home with four bedrooms versus the potential for sixteen bedrooms if the property is fully developed.
- With the property being fully in a Zone II aquifer to town drinking water wells and 1400 feet from a Zone I aquifer, we believe the purchase of the property to help protect the Town's drinking water supply.
- The acquisition and preservation of the property will protect vernal pool and wetland habitats. Going forward in Orleans, there will be fewer and fewer opportunities to preserve or restore natural habitats and designate land parcels as conservation land.

In summary, the Committee recommends that the CPC approve this OCT Application

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Richard Levy

Chair

Marine and Freshwater Quality Committee

Town of Orleans MA