

ATM 16D – CPC – Black Cat Road

draft minutes from 3/3/16 A&F meeting

Bill Keohan, CPC Chair, presented Article 16D. The CPC is recommending the purchase of 14.6 acres of land off Black Cat Road, off Ship Pond Road. The intention is to preserve the headwaters of the Town Brook. Water from this property runs to Billington Sea and down the Town Brook which is a major contributor to Plymouth Harbor. Our ability to preserve the water quality is directly related to the viability of the Town to build a local sustainable economy. Residents depend on clean water and eco-tourism visitors also expect protected natural resources.

Questions:

Several committee members asked about the appropriation of the article as well as the additional costs mentioned in the application in the packet of materials provided. Bill Keohan explained that the article appropriates \$46,000 for the purchase of the land. A conservation restriction will be obtained and the Wildlands Trust will oversee the land. There would be additional costs for due diligence (surveys, legal fees, etc.) and a stewardship endowment. Those would be funded with the CPC administrative budget. The stewardship endowment may be up to \$10,000 but would not be more than that. The \$10,000 would be an endowment for this property specifically. Wildlands Trust would be able to spend the interest from the endowment on maintaining the property.

Marcus McGraw made a motion to recommend ATM Article 16D to Town Meeting. Patrick O'Brien, second. The motion carries unanimously (11-0-0).