
SECTION 10

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public feedback was sought throughout the entire open space and recreation planning process. The text and maps included in the Plan reflect these enhancements. A more direct request for feedback on the Seven -Year Action Plan was made at the public forum held September 23, 2010, which resulted in the comments included in this section.

Copies of the final version of the Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan were also sent to the following agencies, boards and organizations for review and comment. Their comment letters are inserted into the plan at the end of this section:

- Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS)
- Montague Board of Selectmen
- Montague Planning Board
- Montague Conservation Commission
- Montague Parks & Recreation Commission
- Turners Falls Water District
- Montague Center Water District
- Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
- Franklin Land Trust
- Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Five members of the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee and the public attended the Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Forum on September 23, 2010 at the Montague Town Hall. The majority of the time was spent prioritizing the objectives from the plan. Attendees were each given ten stickers to place next to the objectives they felt should be priorities over the next seven years. From a list of fifty-eight objectives, fourteen objectives were chosen as priorities, which are listed in Sections 1 and 9 of this plan and displayed on the Action Plan Map. Participants felt that the prioritized objectives represent a good balance between the six goals of the plan, with at least one priority objective chosen from each goal. Additionally, forum attendees reviewed and commented on each of the maps for the plan with the exception of the Action Plan map, which was reviewed at the final Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee meeting. These comments were incorporated where possible into the final maps for the plan.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Deval Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181

March 2, 2011

Alyssa Larose
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
425 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301-3313

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Larose:

Thank you for submitting Montague's Open Space and Recreation Plan to this office for review for compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I am pleased to write that the plan is approved. This final approval will allow Montague to participate in DCS grant rounds through December 2017.

Congratulations on a great job. Please call me at (617) 626-1171 if you have any questions or concerns about the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Cryan".

Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager



Board of Selectmen
Town of Montague
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 xt. 108
FAX: (413) 863-3231

January 10, 2010

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Ms. Cryan,

The Montague Board of Selectmen is in full support of the 2010 Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Board looks forward to using this plan to improve quality of life and the protection of natural resources in Montague.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF MONTAGUE

Patricia A. Allen, Chairman

Mark Fairbrother

Christopher Boutwell, Sr.

Montague Planning Board

One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-3200 ext 207 Fax:(413) 863-3222 Email: planner@montague.net

January 3, 2010

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Ms. Cryan,

The Montague Planning Board is in full support of the 2010 Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Board looks forward to using this as a guiding document for future land use decisions in Montague.



Ted Armen
Chair, Montague Planning Board

Montague Conservation Commission

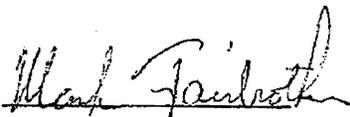
One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-3200 Ext 207 (413) 863-3222 (fax) Email: planner@montague.net

January 4, 2011

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Ms. Cryan,

The Montague Conservation Commission fully supports the 2010 Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan.



Mark Fairbrother
Chair, Montague Conservation Commission

*MONTAGUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
One Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Phone: (413) 863-3216/Fax: (413) 863-3229
www.montague.net*

*Jonathan J. Dobosz, CPRP, CPO
Director of Parks & Recreation
recdir@montague-ma.gov*

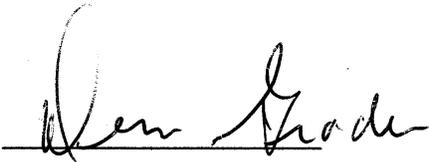
*Trish Brodeur
Clerk/Bookkeeper
recclerk@montague-ma.gov*

January 6, 2011

**Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114**

Ms. Cryan,

The Montague Parks and Recreation Commission fully supports the 2010 Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan.



**Dennis Grader, Chairperson
Montague Parks & Recreation Commission**

WATER DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS

226 MILLERS FALLS ROAD

Phone: 413-863-4542

Fax: 413-863-3175

email: turnerswater@yahoo.com

www.turnersfallswater.com

TURNERS FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

01376-1605

January 11, 2011

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Ms. Cryan,

The Turners Falls Water Department fully supports the 2010 Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan.



Michael S. Brown
Superintendent



1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA 01331-9734

Phone: (978)248-2043 Fax: (978)248-2053

landtrust@mountgrace.org

www.mountgrace.org

Protecting land and encouraging land stewardship in North Central Massachusetts

01 February 2011

Melissa Cryan
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has reviewed the *Town of Montague 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan* (Plan) and provides the following comments about the Plan.

- The Plan is well written and provides a current account of the Town's natural resources.
- The Seven Year Action Plan establishes a prioritized road map to implement the public goals by incorporating a clear list of objectives, actions, time frames, responsible officials, and importantly, potential funding sources.
- On 9 September 2011 the Montague Conservation Commission agreed to partner with Mount Grace in our Metacomet Monadnock Forest Forest Legacy grant application by agreeing to take the necessary steps to hold the conservation restriction interest in a parcel included in the application. So doing demonstrates the Town's commitment to implement the Plan's priority objectives. (Objective A.1: "Encourage permanent protection of large blocks of contiguous forest and establishment of corridors between existing protected forest parcels.")
- The inclusion of the school children's artwork in the Plan is creative and enjoyable while reinforcing the connection of the Plan to the people.

Mount Grace wholeheartedly supports the work of the Town and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments in developing the Plan. Mount Grace is eager to partner with the Town on implementing it.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Yours truly,

Leigh Youngblood
Executive Director

ly/pd

c Alyssa Larose, Franklin Regional Council of Governments
Walter Ramsey, Town of Montague
Frank E. Abbondanzio, Town of Montague

Board of Directors

Howard Mathison, *President*
Mary Williamson, *Vice President*
Allen Tupper Brown, *Treasurer*
Celt Grant, *Clerk*

Nancy Allen
William Ames
Kristine Delfausse

Warren Facey
Len Glick
Peter Haley

Bonnie House
Mike Roche
Colleen Sculley

Garth Shaneyfelt
Jerry Wagener



36 State Street, P.O. Box 450
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
phone: (413) 625-9151
fax: (413) 625-9153
www.franklinlandtrust.org

Officers:

Charles Cohn, *President*
(Shelburne)
Thomas Luck, *Vice President*
(Leyden)
Paul Cooper, *Treasurer*
(Hawley)
Norma Coli, *Clerk*
(Charlemont)

Board of Directors:

Michael Abbate (*Leverett*)
Mark Allen (*Montague*)
Cris Coffin (*Bernardston*)
Nina Coler (*Ashfield*)
Robert Dane (*Heath*)
Steven Dinkelaker (*Conway*)
Michael McCusker (*Buckland*)
Jaap Molenaar (*Deerfield*)
Elizabeth Sillin (*Sunderland*)
Timothy Smith (*Shelburne*)
Alan Swedlund (*Deerfield*)

Staff:

Richard Hubbard
Executive Director
Linda Alvord
Membership Services
William Sloan Anderson
Land Steward
Amy Dryansky
Communications Coordinator
Florence Hebert
Bookkeeper/Office Manager
Alain Peteroy
Director of Land Conservation
Mary Lynn Sabourin
Director of Development
Eli Dwight
Americorps Member, Land Steward

January 19, 2011

Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

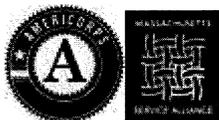
I am writing to voice the Franklin Land Trust's support for the Town of Montague's 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

In preparing the plan, the Montague Open Space Planning Committee and Franklin Regional Council of Governments did an excellent job of making the case that protecting Montague's natural and historic resources is in the best interest of its citizens and can, in fact, serve to foster and support sustainable economic development. The plan represents an incredible planning and resource tool that will serve to inform FLT's land protection work in Montague for years to come.

I strongly encourage DCS to approve Montague's plan!

Sincerely,

Richard K. Hubbard
Executive Director



FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

425 Main Street • Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301-3313
Telephone 413-774-3167 • Fax 413-774-3169 • www.frcog.org
Executive Director • Linda Dunlavy



December 29, 2010

Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is extremely pleased to support the approval of the Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services.

As you know, the plan was developed by the Montague Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee with technical assistance from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. It represents over a year of consensus building on the most important natural, recreational, and scenic resources in Town and the most appropriate strategies for the long term conservation of Montague. This process included significant public input. The updated Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan meets all of the requirements of the Division of Conservation Services as laid out in the "Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook" (revised March 2008).

The Open Space and Recreation Plan will be used to help Town officials and other volunteers in their deliberations concerning land use and open space decisions. Once approved by the State, the Open Space and Recreation Plan will make Montague eligible for land conservation and recreation project funding and more competitive for many other types of state grants. The Town will be better able to collaborate with neighboring towns, the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, the Franklin Land Trust, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and others to protect the natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Town.

We look forward to your positive review and approval of the Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Peggy Sloan
Director of Planning and Development

cc: Walter Ramsey, Planner and Conservation Agent, Town of Montague
Patricia Allen, Chair, Board of Selectmen, Town of Montague