

Town OF FREEPORT, MAINE Town Manager's Office

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MEMORANDUM

To: Freeport Town Council From: Peter Joseph, Town Manager

Date: 7/16/20

RE: Potential Land Donation - Gerow Subdivision

The Town was recently approached by Mr. Warren Gerow, who has submitted a subdivision application for a piece of land on Pownal Road, immediately northwest of the Pownal Road ball field. A plan of the proposed subdivision is attached to this memo.

Mr. Gerow has applied for subdivision under the open space provisions of the Town's regulations, which relax certain subdivision regulations if portions of the subdivision are dedicated to open space. Mr. Gerow has proposed to meet these requirements by donating approx. 10.86 acres of the subdivision to the Town, with open space covenants in place.

The donation has been reviewed and recommended by the Conservation Commission. It is immediately adjacent to the Hedgehog Mountain trail system (a portion of one of those trails is actually built on the Gerow property), the Pownal Road ball field, and also has a narrow strip with a gravel trail that connects to Murch Road. Given the proximity and connectivity with the existing Town properties in the area, staff also recommends that the Town accept the property.

The Council does not need to vote to accept the property at this time, but does need to provide an indication to the applicant and to the Project Review Board that the Town is in favor of acquiring the property in question. Final acceptance of the property would likely occur by vote of the Town Council after specific transfer instruments were developed and reviewed.



Conservation Commission

April 29, 2020

Dear Planning Board Members,

The Town of Freeport Conservation Commission met with land developer Warren Gerow at our meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. At the meeting Mr. Gerow described the plot of land that he purchased on Pownal Rd. that will be broken up into 6 lots for a new housing development. Mr. Gerow's plan includes the donation of over 10 acres of land designated as open space to the Town of Freeport, within which lies existing trails of the Hedgehog Mountain trail system. The commission reviewed Mr. Gerow's map which outlined the entire property, the lots to be sold, as well as the land that will be reserved for open space.

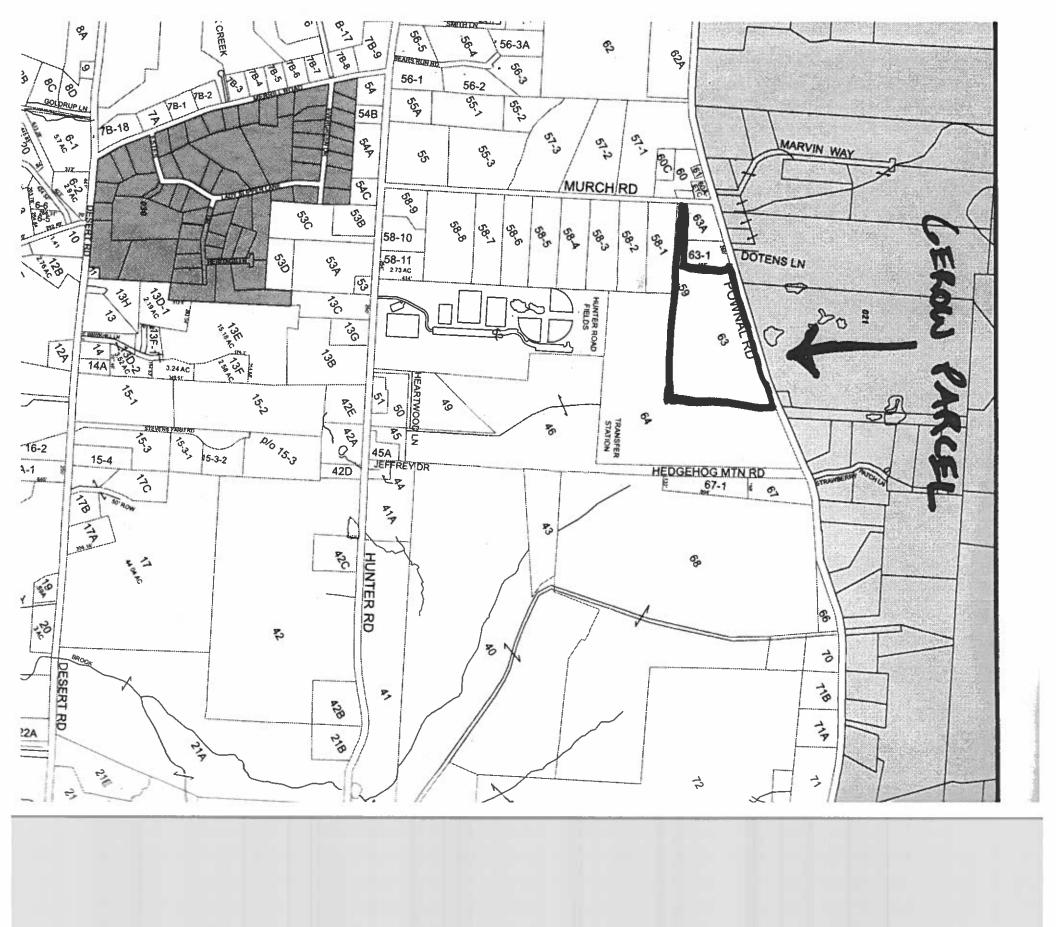
It is our belief that the additional land will benefit the town not only by providing us ownership of trails on property that we currently do not own, but it may allow for possible other uses such as trail expansion or additional access points to Hedgehog Mountain in the future. A motion was made to accept Mr. Gerow's donation of the open space acreage, which was approved unanimously. Therefore, on behalf of the Conservation Commission, I write this letter today in support of Mr. Gerow's land development plan as it was outlined to us on 3/10/20.

Please note that Commission member Guy Blanchard recused himself from this portion of the meeting due to his place on the Planning Board.

Should additional information be needed from the Commission regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Ryan Burke
Conservation Commission - Chair









SHEET TITLE: CONCEPTUAL PLAN & SITE ANALYSIS



