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## A Message From the Executive Director

2015 has been a landmark year in Wright Locke Farm's 377-year history. Top on the list of accomplishments, we purchased the 12.5 acres of land to the north and west of the farmstead, preserving it from development. Our many committed supporters, both donors and volunteers, made what initially seemed an insurmountable task a reality.

All the while, we kept farming and growing, expanding our education programs for both kids and adults alike, and hosting many successful public and private events.

Now, as we look forward, we have lots more to accomplish — planning for a new Education and Program Center just to the north of the farm house and 1827 Barn, finalizing a Conservation Restriction to permanently protect the western portion of the Farm, improving our parking, vehicle and pedestrian access and maintaining our important historic structures.

With your continued support we'll achieve our goals to strengthen the Farm as a community resource for all. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or offers of assistance. Thanks to all for being part of the Farm.

Sincerely,  
**Archie McIntyre,**  
*Executive Director, Wright-Locke Farm*  
amcintyre@wlfarm.org  
(781-760-1017)

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*Kids examining honeycomb in our summer Farm Education program*

## Preserved!

Last May, the "Save Your Farm!" campaign won a sweeping majority of Winchester Town meeting member votes and now 12.5 acres of the farm are safe from development.

The town wanted to retire the debt incurred in 2007 when it bought the entire 20-acre farm, but was stymied when one developer defaulted and other offers were too low. Over a year ago, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) announced plans to issue a third RFP prompting the Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, a town-appointed board which leases the 7.6-acre working farm section, to begin spreading the word about the value of keeping the entire farm intact.

By the time the BOS finalized the RFP in January, farm supporters had created the Wright-Locke Land Trust, a new entity which could legally bid. Donors gave modest or generous sums — and four individuals gave a million dollars each. Three developers bid although one dropped out stating their belief that "most stakeholders are strongly and solely interested in preserving the entirety of the property."

Some stakeholders preferred houses in order to increase the town's property tax income, and discussions turned from houses vs. preservation to tax income vs. demands on town services. With financial data from multiple sources, the team spent much of the winter speaking to town meeting members to clarify issues, including how much preservation would cost each taxpayer.

*Continued on page 2*

Wright-Locke Farm is free and open to all, just like a public park.  
There are no hours, no admission fees, no membership required.

**Preserved — Forever!**

## Preserved! (cont.)

That number was calculated by an independent consultant to the BOS at \$14 a year. Letters and articles appeared in the *Daily Times*, the *Winchester Star* and the *Boston Globe* whose "The Argument" column offered both sides of the debate. Store windows posted signs, postcards went out, bumper stickers appeared.

During the spring other town boards weighed in, and all except the Assessors Board supported the Land Trust. The BOS asked for best and final offers, and the Trust's was \$8.6 million. The Conservation Commission donated \$300,000 of their funds and the BOS voted 4-1 in May to recommend the Land Trust bid to Town Meeting.

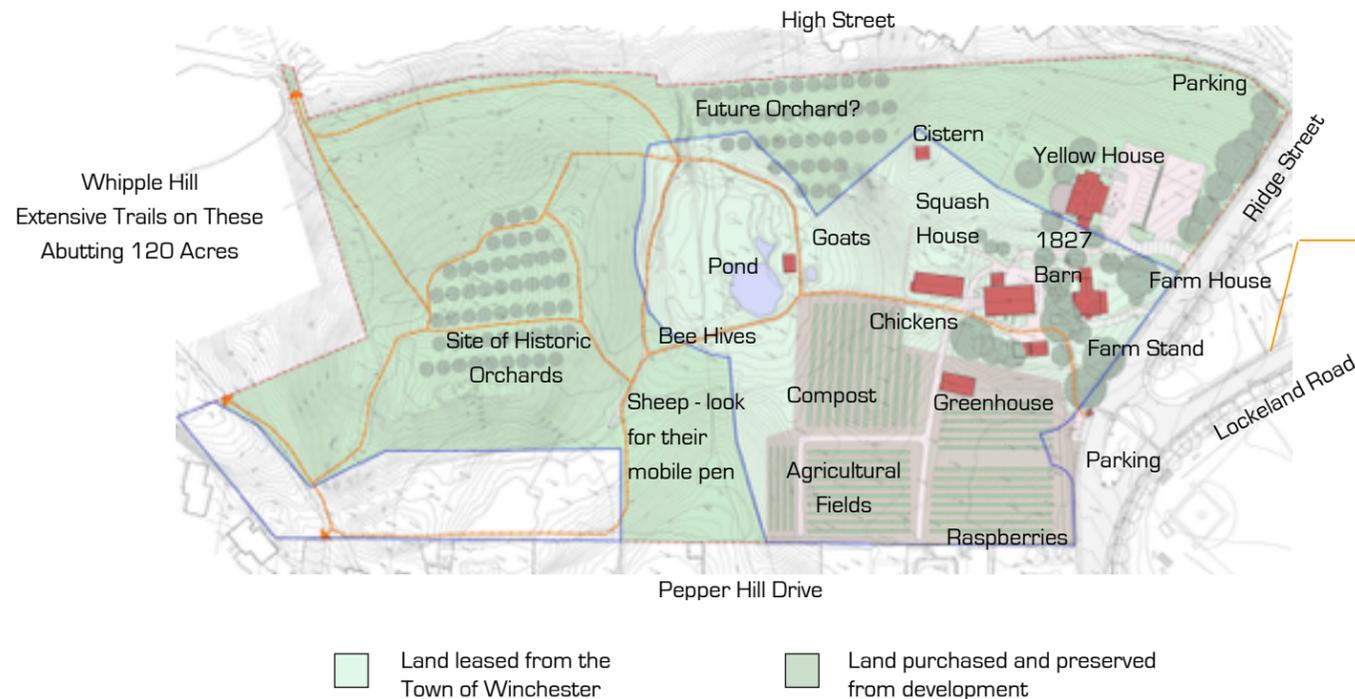
Even little kids helped — the ENKA Society awarded the Farm their \$50 best parade float award. No one could resist the antique tractor pulling a trailer full of preschoolers dressed as baby chicks. Despite the fun, supporters were worried — two-thirds of the Town Meeting votes would be needed in favor of preservation. On May 28 Town Meeting met to decide.

Selectman Lance Grenzeback explained the Board's criteria in recommending the Trust. Town committee chairs spoke, including the Historic Commission Chair who called it

"a legacy moment" for "one of the oldest continuously operating farms in the US." One supporter described the history of Winchester's procurement of open space for public use, starting with the town common proposal in 1868, saying that budget issues would be a perennial concern but "preservation is forever."

The final vote was 150 in favor and 21 against, a success far above the necessary two-thirds. On August 3, the Land Trust presented the town with a check for \$8.2 million with \$400,000 more due within three years, and the Town Manager gave Land Trust president Tom Howley the key to the yellow house at 82 Ridge Street. Since then the Trust has been working on a conservation agreement, plans for an education center and orchard, and the next phase of preservation when the Conservancy's lease on the working farm acres comes up for renewal in 2041. And the summer settled in with bountiful crops, raspberry picking, unprecedented attendance at free Family Farm Night concerts, coffee at the Farm Stand, and grateful visitors walking the land, petting the sheep, feeding the chickens — enjoying the farm in its now securely preserved state.

### WRIGHT-LOCKE FARM



## Invest in the Farm's Future

They said it couldn't be done. But you made it happen: 12.5 acres of Wright Locke Farm is now preserved as public open space — forever. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we've preserved the land. Now, we look to secure the future of our historic buildings and the safety of our livestock.

The Farm's financial model is self-sustaining. This year, we have covered our operating expenses through program and agriculture revenue. So, 100% of your donation will go towards one-time capital improvements.

On the farm this year we discovered we need a permanent fence to keep our livestock safe. Coyotes diminished

our flock of laying hens by 50%. And when our sheep decide the grass is greener on the other side, they jump their electric fence.

Our iconic 1827 barn is the one you know and love from our events. At 188 years old, it inevitably needs major work. The time has come to reside and repaint the barn to ensure it will last for generations to come.

Your support will preserve this essential Winchester asset for generations to come. Please give as generously as you can. Make your gift now to support Wright-Locke Farm. Please fill out the reply form below and send it today.

**Donate online at [WLFarm.org/donate](http://WLFarm.org/donate)**

**Yes! I will invest in the future of Wright Locke Farm with my donation**

\$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1000  \$2500  \$5000 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to:

- Become a Farm Friend and enjoy early registration for children's education programs (\$125)  Join email list

Please make your check payable to Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, Inc. and mail with this form to:

**Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, Inc., P.O. Box 813, Winchester, MA 01890**

Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, Inc is a registered 501(c)(3) corporation and all charitable contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Thank you for your support!**

# Thank You

to all the donors who generously supported our efforts and helped preserve the 12.5 acres of the farm, *permanently!*

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## What's New?

### Parking Improvements



Nearly finished.

The parking entrance at 82 Ridge Street was for years only one lane wide, an unsafe situation that required paid parking attendants to direct traffic safely in and out of the parking area. We have now paved and widened the old driveway into a 2-lane entrance and exit and removed many large boulders from the field itself that had been a menace to drivers. There will be even more parking improvements once we build our new education center. Come visit the farm and park in our new and improved lot!

### Farm Stand Café Expansion



Families at the farm stand during the halycon days of summer

This summer we expanded our farm stand's product offerings and built an outdoor patio with café-style tables and free WiFi. In addition to selling our own farm's eggs, honey and produce, we offered both hot and iced coffee and tea, ever-popular popsicles, and many other local products for sale. The patio is named in memory of Werner Carlson, a devoted farm supporter and board member. While winter farm stand hours are limited to egg sales on Wednesdays from 9–12 noon, we look forward to welcoming you back on a daily basis when the weather warms up.

# What's Next?

An interview with Executive Director Archie McIntyre, by Joyce Westner



### We preserved 12.5 acres of the farm as open public space, permanently. What's next?

The next goal on our horizon is to build a new education center where we can offer farm-based programs twelve months of the year—right now our program season is limited to warm weather months, about April to October.

### How will year-round programs support the farm's mission?

For one, it will improve our financial stability. We will continue to offer free family events at the farm, possibly including exhibits, free lectures, community meetings. But we expect classes for children as well as adults to bring in more tuition revenue and beyond that the center could be rented out during the winter months for private events, from corporate retreats to private dinners—even small weddings may work.

### What will the new building look like?

Whether we renovate and add on to the yellow house at 82 Ridge Street or build an entirely new structure, it will have flexible open space for gatherings, smaller break-out rooms and classrooms, and the best feature: an "Innovation Kitchen", with state of the art equipment in a cooking school layout. We will be able to turn our farm products into prepared foods—not just raspberry jam but possibly pickled vegetables and innovative new products. We can host dinners with guest chefs,

farm ed cooking classes, and possibly rent it out to start-up food makers, as an "incubator" kitchen. What a great nucleus for spawning a lot of community food-related events!

### Do you have a design yet?

Not yet. We are getting input from a variety of sources and considering the many logistics from how the building will relate to the historic structures, how big we want or can afford, how it sits on the site. The yellow house was built in 1967 and has some value and interesting features—whether we can turn it into our education and program center remains to be seen.

### Any other changes in store?

Yes, we'd like to move the grape arbor further west so we have a large outdoor amphitheater for family farm night events, and we definitely want to put in a mixed fruit orchard in keeping with the farm's history. We're looking to build a perimeter fence on the northern portion of the farm to keep the farm animals safe.

### When is all of this happening?

An optimistic timetable would be to have shovels in the ground by the fall of 2016—but the timing depends on getting a design, permits, and funding by our loyal supporters who value the resource the farm has become for our community and who want to ensure our future.

# What Can You Do at the Farm?



Photograph © Aquadro Photography

Buy fresh eggs at the Farmstand this winter on Wednesdays from 9 –12 noon. During the growing season vegetables, fresh coffee, and flowers are on sale.

Become a member of our chicken team — sign up to care for the chickens for a week this winter.

Host a milestone party at the farm: the barn is available for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, and corporate events.

Learn new skills: canning, foraging, beekeeping, astronomy, yoga, gardening and much, much more.

Educate children through the Farm's summer, school vacation, and after school programs.

"Pick Your Own" raspberries or help the farmers harvest vegetables for the market.

Stop in for a visit to the goats, lambs, and chickens.

Explore the historic 1827 Barn and Squash House and see original farm equipment from days gone by.

Celebrate! Come to the public Family Farm Nights in July, seasonal harvest dinners and cocktail parties.

Learn new skills: the farm's adult education program offers canning, foraging, beekeeping, raising chickens in your backyard, gardening how-to and much, much more.



## From the Executive Director *Continued from page 1*

Photograph © Bill Ryerson

*Volunteer citizens who worked behind the scenes to preserve the 12.5 acres of the farm attend the delivery of the \$8.6 million check to the Board of Selectmen on August 4th. In addition to those pictured, the team included over 600 donors—all of you who made this historic sale possible. Left to Right: Richard Howard, Town Manager; Bob Johnson, Abutters representative; Joyce Westner, Wright Locke Farm Conservancy (WLFC) Committee Chair; Mike Bettencourt, Selectman; Cindy Bohne, Wright Locke Land Trust (WLLT) Board Member and School Committee Chair; Archie McIntyre, WLFC Executive Director and Treasurer of WLLT; Sally Quinn, President WLFC; Tom Howley, President WLLT; Jim Whitehead, Selectman; Lance Grenzeback, Selectman.*

