

A Message From the Executive Director

In the six years since Wright-Locke Farm transferred from private to public ownership, we have been hard at work building a sustainable community center for education and farming. We are now raising funds to buy the entirety of the original Wright-Locke farmstead to preserve this land forever, thereby providing a market rate return to the Town of Winchester while enhancing quality of life for all. This public open space is irreplaceable: once it is developed, it is gone forever. Please come visit the Farm, spread the word about the Farm's plan to put in a market-rate bid for the land, and give as generously as you can to the **Save Your Farm** campaign to ensure we preserve this precious land for generations to come. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or offers of assistance.

Sincerely,

Archie McIntyre,

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



Save Your Farm

Preserve Winchester's Last Open Space

On a December day, imagine this scene: 6 o'clock on a hot August evening, families gather at the Farm. Picnic blankets meet edge to edge on the hillside, overlooking the historic landscape untouched by suburban sprawl. Adults connect with friends old and new, while kids chase chickens and dance to the music in the barn. Wright-Locke Farm is Winchester's oasis from the daily grind with all the competing demands of a modern life. Our 376 year-old Farm reconnects us — right in our own backyard — to our families, our community, and our past.

Known to recent generations of Winchester residents as the Raspberry Patch, the Wright-Locke Farm is now a public community asset. The Farm is one of the oldest continuously operating farms in the nation, having passed down through just three families from 1638 until the town of Winchester purchased it in 2007. Wright-Locke Farm is the last of many farms that once operated in Winchester. In fact, many of those farms survived on the west side of town until the 1950s and 60s when they were sold off to developers one by one. The Wright-Locke Farm survived and now is a vibrant working community farm with activities for people of all ages, many of them free and all open to the public.

Continued on page 5



How Will We Preserve Winchester's Last Open Space?

By the time the raspberries are ripe next summer, the woodlands and pasture surrounding the arable land could be slated for construction and paving over with asphalt. While 7.6 acres of the original farmstead has been secured through a 30-year lease from the Town, the remaining 12.5 acres could still be developed with dense housing units. This prospect is alarming to a groundswell of Winchester families and a movement has emerged to save it. Within the past year, Winchester's Board of Selectmen has revived the effort to develop this land, and real estate developers are currently submitting sealed bids. Developing this land could destroy this precious resource forever — and the increased tax revenue from new houses might not even cover the cost of providing education, sewage, water, and other town services needed for these new houses.

There is a plan to preserve the land: the Farm will put in a market-rate land preservation bid as well. This bid is supported by funds donated by supporters through a newly formed non-profit entity, the Wright-Locke Land Trust. This bid will help the town recoup a substantial portion of its initial investment in the land, while preserving the land for the public's use forever.

The Farm's supporters are pragmatic, and there is a backup plan as well. In the event that charitable

fundraising alone is not enough to submit a winning bid to secure the remainder of the land, the bid may include a limited number of houses sited and designed to complement the Farm's historic nature but not compromise the Farm's operations on Ridge Street.

Both of these plans will incorporate the parking lot that is essential to the fiscal sustainability of the Farm as well as provide for visitor safety. Both plans allow for the conversion of the yellow hilltop house at 82 Ridge Street into a year-round education and event center that will improve visitor experience and revenue potential. Both plans will preserve the maximum amount of open space for the public's use — forever.

It is a win-win for the Town to receive a fair market value price for the land, and for the citizens of Winchester to secure the entirety of the Farm for the benefit of future generations. Wright-Locke Farm exists for the benefit of all, and you have a say in the future of this land.

Learn more at an info session about the Farm's future on Wed., 12/10 at 7:00 pm at the Winchester Public Library or email info@wlfarm.org to sign up to hear of future info sessions.

What You Can Do to Help



If the Farm's proposal is not chosen by Town Meeting, the red area will be developed with housing.

- 1) Ask your Town Meeting members to support the Wright-Locke Farm Land Trust's proposals. Find out who your representatives are at <http://tinyurl.com/Winchester>.™
- 2) Give as generously as you can to the Save *Your* Farm campaign.
- 3) Host a Save *Your* Farm info session for your club, community group or neighbors. Email info@wlfarm.org to learn how.
- 4) Come visit your Farm! See first hand what a unique asset it is for our town.
- 5) Spread the word among your friends and neighbors that the Farm's proposal will
 - Preserve irreplaceable open space.
 - Strengthen the Farm as a community resource for all ages.
 - Generate a positive financial return for Winchester.

Save Your Farm

Preserve Winchester's Last Open Space

The Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy has launched a Save Your Farm Capital Campaign to secure the entirety of the original farmstead for public use forever. We are already more than halfway to our \$7 million goal. With these funds we can preserve the 12.5 acres surrounding the historic farmstead as open space in perpetuity. This land is crucial to your Farm's financial sustainability and is a public treasure. With this land secured, we can:

- Expand programming and revenue potential to operate all year round
- Provide for safe, on-site parking for our public events and rentals
- Provide a market rate return to the Town of Winchester for its initial investment in the farm.

Please join us in this important effort to preserve that last remaining open space in the Town of Winchester by giving as generously as you can. Your support will pay tremendous dividends to the quality of life in Winchester for generations to come. 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

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Roger Wilson

Archie McIntyre
Executive Director



Yes! I will support the Save Your Farm campaign 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)
- Volunteer my time Host an info session 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

For larger donations or to explore other giving options, please contact
Executive Director Archie McIntyre at amcintyre@wlfarm.org or 781-760-1017.

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!

Lifelong Learning for All: Farm Education Programs

Education programs at Wright-Locke Farm connect people of all ages to the land and each other, learning through hands-on activities that take advantage of the Farm's diverse environment and its seasonal activities. Children spend their time outdoors engaged in activities such as tending to animals, planting and harvesting crops, and preparing food right from the garden to eat. Adult workshops teach about wellness and hobbies on topics such as canning, mushroom foraging, photography, yoga, gardening, raising chickens and beekeeping.

Visit www.WLFarm.org/education



Children cleaning carrots they've harvested for a snack at their summer Farm education program

Youth Program Signup Dates

January 24:
Early registration open to Farm Friends

February 7:
General registration begins

**Adult Program Sign-up
throughout the year**



Chef Karina Hines teaches a cooking workshop to adults.



Children are enthralled by a sheep shearing demonstration on the Farm's flock.

What Can You Do at the Farm?



Buy fresh eggs at the Farm Stand all year round and vegetables and flowers in season. Winter hours of operation are Wednesday and Saturday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

“Pick Your Own” raspberries in season.

Visit the goats, lambs, and chickens.

Picnic with friends and family.

Help harvest vegetables.



Hike, walk, and run on acres of wooded trails.

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

Attend seasonal public music performances and celebrations.

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.

Educate children: the Farm’s youth education offers fun summer, school vacation, and after school programs about nutrition, growing food, and farm life.

Experience the landscape in its undeveloped state as it was centuries ago.



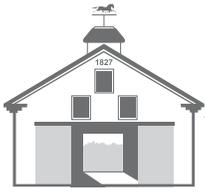
**If you’ve been considering volunteering to help the Farm, now is the time!
Contact info@wlfarm.org to find out how you can help Save Your Farm.**

Save Your Farm! *Continued from page 1*

When the town of Winchester formed the Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy in 2008 to steward the Farm, the only agricultural offering was a field of raspberries. Since then our professional farmers and many volunteers have diversified the crops to include a wide variety of vegetables and flowers that are sold at the on-site farm stand and at farmers’ markets in the area. The Farm is now home to animals as well. Chickens, honeybees, a flock of sheep, and a family of goats are tended to by a fleet of volunteers and staff. While children are excited to dig in the dirt and learn about growing crops, feeding and caring for the animals makes their Farm experience come to life, quite literally. The Farm now offers wildly successful

educational programs for children and adults, serving 1,300 youth and 122 adults this year alone. The Conservancy has renovated the historic buildings to host public events such as a Spring Fling and Family Farm Nights in the summer. The Farm is also available for private events that help generate revenue to cover the Farm’s costs.

Six years ago few knew that Winchester had a farm. Today it is a popular treasure enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year. We invite you to come and explore Wright Locke Farm — *Your Farm* — and see what a thriving, unique asset it is to our community, and we ask you to be a part of saving your Farm forever.



**WRIGHT-LOCKE
FARM** WINCHESTER, MA

Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 813, Winchester, MA 01890 • www.WLFarm.org



A summer Family Farm Night public music performance by the Winchester Community Music School in Wright-Locke Farm's 1827 barn.

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

Join us in the campaign to Save Your Farm!

