



Citizens for Lexington Conservation

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Kate Fricker, Editor February, 2012 Eileen Entin & Keith Ohmart, Co-Chairs

CANDIDATES' FORUM ISSUE

Save the Date:

CLC's Annual Meeting is on Monday, April 23, 7 – 9 pm.
Birgit deWeerd will talk on

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A HONEYBEE COLONY.

A short business meeting will take place before the talk. Admission is free and open to all. For more information go to <http://www.clclex.org/>.

We are concerned:

CLC dues, which support our publications and activities such as our annual meeting speaker, are lower than previous years. Our fiscal year closes on March 31. Please check your dues status indicated by the year printed on your snail mail address label or by the message at the top of your email notification, and renew your membership. There is a renewal form on the back side of this page. CLC is a 501(c)(3) organization, and dues are tax deductible.



Photo Quiz: What is this?

Printed on Recycled Paper



Citizens for Lexington Conservation devotes this annual issue of its newsletter to candidates' statements in order to help you, the voter, cast your ballot effectively. All candidates for office were sent a letter soliciting a half page response on the following topic (not all responded):

Question to All Candidates:

The Town is currently in negotiations for the purchase of the Wright Farm property, which is located on Grove Street, on the Bedford/Lexington border. As of this writing, two Warrant articles proposing the purchase of this property have been submitted for consideration at this year's Town Meeting, Articles 9 and 10: Land Purchase--Off of Grove Street (both titled the same).

Specific details regarding the property and a possible purchase price are not presently available but it would appear from the assessors' description of the property that the open space portion, consisting of pasture and woodland, totals approximately 14 acres. The property, which also includes a house and barn, is adjacent to Burlington's landlocked forest, a parcel of approximately 250 acres of woodland that is owned by the town of Burlington and features an extensive network of trails that are popular with both hikers and mountain bikers.

Assuming the property is purchased by the Town, what use(s) would you suggest for this property based on Town needs and what you know of the features of the property and its location?

CLC does not endorse any candidate. Rather, we urge you to read the candidates' statements, make your own decisions, and VOTE for your candidates on Monday, March 1.

Photo Credit: p. 1, Kate Fricker
Answer to Photo Quiz: Bittersweet vine

2012 CLC dues are payable now. Please use the form below.

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ADDRESS _____

Mail to: CLC Inc., P. O. Box 292, Lexington,
MA 02420-0003

E-Mail _____

____ Renewal
____ New Member

____ **Go Green.** Check here if you would like to have your newsletter sent (in color, with live links) as a link in an email, instead of the black-and-white paper edition.

Basic Membership \$15.00 \$ _____
Contribution \$ _____

Total \$ _____

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN-WIDE OFFICE

Candidate for Selectman

Peter Kelley

781-861-1546 Peterckelley@gmail.com

I support the purchase of the Wright Farm for conservation and, if the house and barn are included in the purchase, I would like to see them used for conservation and environmental programs. These 14 acres represent a strategic gateway to our town. They speak to the town's tradition of protecting historic landscapes and open space. In the past we have done this by protecting Tower Park on Mass. Ave., The Ricci Land on Waltham Street, the Chiesa Farm on Adams Street, the Cotton Farm on Marrett Road, the Busa Farm on Lowell Street as well as other less visible parcels. The purchase of the Wright Farm continues this legacy of protecting our past and in turn leaving a legacy for future generations.

Candidates for School Committee

Andrei Radulescu-Banu

617 216 8509 (cell) 781 862 5854 (home)
www.andrei4schools.com

I am a double candidate in the March election - for town meeting as well as School Committee. It was very nice of the Citizens for Lexington Conservation to send a question about the Wright Farm property to all candidates. It was on this occasion that I have learned that the Wright Farm was up for sale! I am a lover of nature, and an avid biker and skier - although I have to admit that with the election season I did not have much time to ski this winter.

I think the answer to your question writes itself: Burlington's landlocked forest, which is adjacent to the Wright Farm, needs an entry and exit point for hikers and mountain bikers, and perhaps the farm can be converted to serve as an entry/exit station.

But before we can discuss what function Wright Farm may serve once it is purchased by the Town of Lexington, it would be good to clarify first the proposed purchase price and to compare with other competing town expenses. By the time I am writing my reply (1/29/2012), I was not able to find a copy of the Warrant on the Town Clerk's web site, and therefore I cannot yet comment on Articles 9 and 10 in the Warrant.

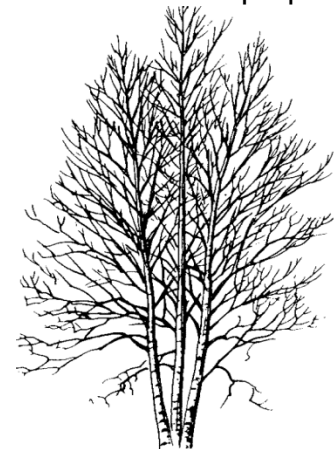
In summary, while I support the use of Wright Farm as conservation land once it is purchased, as of the writing of my reply I will await additional information before expressing a position on the purchase itself.

Mary Ann Stewart

781/354-3020 MaryAnn@redoniondesign.com

One of the aspects of Lexington that brought our family here was the Town's thoughtful approach to preserving its green space. Our Town has also been responsive to its needs for economic development, housing, and recreation. I love Lexington and want to participate in a process that continues to make it a desirable place to live. I am pleased Town and Conservation Commission are interested in acquiring Wright Farm. I am not aware of a specific proposal concerning the Farm, though I am aware that the property has been on the Conservation Commission's list for some time.

My understanding is that Wright Farm is comprised of some fourteen acres with trails already established in places. Whatever the proposal is to be, going forward, I will be interested in and supportive of a responsive and innovative approach for meeting the needs of our diverse constituency, be it parks and green space, recreation, or other development.



Gray Birch

Candidate for Planning Board

Richard Canale,
781-861-0287 r.canale@rcn.com

The Wright Farm property has long been one of a few special places that are keys in setting Lexington's character and heritage.

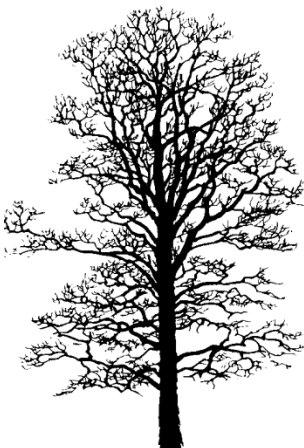
The Lexington Planning Board in the mid-nineties (I was then its Chair) began to inventory key parcels in town that might be susceptible to development. We ranked the Wright Farm as a key property that we believed the Town should have an interest in its maintenance/preservation.

As the Lexington Project Coordinator for the 2006 LEXINGTON RECONNAISSANCE REPORT for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, I ensured that the Wright Farm was included in the final listings. A particular concern articulated among Lexington stakeholders at a heritage landscape meeting was the disappearance of the historic meadow landscapes, especially noted were the Wright and Busa Farm

Heritage landscapes are special places created by human interaction with the natural environment that help define the character of a community and reflect its past. They are dynamic and evolving; they reflect the history of a community and provide a sense of place; they show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns; and they often have scenic qualities. Her-

itage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing.

The DCR Final Report includes the Wright farm as an agricultural resource that includes a "Significant farmhouse and open fields". I believe the Town should work to keep this heritage landscape intact.



Shagbark Hickory

Candidates for Housing Authority

Daniel L McCabe
781-698-8161 mac46dan@yahoo.com

One of the great attributes Lexington has to offer is its great amount of open land, much of which is Conservation land. As a Town Meeting member in the 1970's and 80's, and later as a member and then Chair of the Capital Expenditures Committee, I worked for and supported the acquisition of much of this land, including farm land, some of which we kept in active use, and the "development rights" of land that either was too expensive or the seller wanted to keep in use. There are many ways to acquire land so that it remains open and beautiful for all to appreciate and use.

Much of what I have seen of the Wright land is that it has not been farmed for awhile. One point I believe is that it should have a small section for parking and access to the Burlington land for hiking and biking. If we buy it for general use, this allows us latitude to do what turns out best for all concerned, including selling part and using some of the money to buy small homes closer to the center of town, to be used for low or moderate housing. It would also allow us to use some of the money for maintenance of our current stock of open land. We could also use it as is until or if the price for land becomes better and would allow the above options and other possible uses including repair to the house and barn if economically possible.

Weidong Wang
weidong@yahoo.com

Whenever we look at a new piece of land, we must be very careful to decide how to use it. I believe our children and grandchildren will thank us for taking extra caution to preserve the precious land, as once a piece of land is gone, it is gone forever.

With regard to the Wright Farm property, its 14 acres is a quite large area for doing many things, but we need to balance the needs and put the conservation on the top.

I would suggest that we leave the majority of the space as open space with a small area for affordable housing.

Specifically, I would suggest we use about 2 to 3 acres of land for some apartment buildings with enough units (even all) set aside as affordable units for rent. This will address the need for affordable housing need and allow Lexington to satisfy the Chapter 40B requirement.

The remaining majority of the land should be reserved as a multi-use recreational area, which would be a valuable asset for the entire community. It can consist of features of a full-size multi-purpose field, playgrounds, passive recreation area, trails, gardens, and parking. As we have a quite large area, longer trails can be developed, with some areas designated for camping purpose for scouts to camp out. We can also entertain the idea of having a community garden where residents can "lease" a piece of the garden and grow either vegetables or flowers.

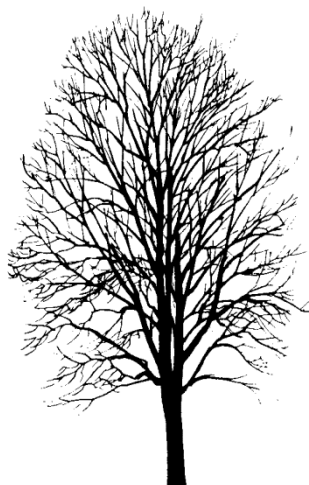
CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING

Precinct 1

Eric Eid-Reiner

[781-608-3442](tel:781-608-3442) Eric.Eid.Reiner@gmail.com

I have been lucky to grow up and live for all of my 22 years thus far in a house that borders the beautiful Whipple Hill Conservation Land -- a great area for enjoying nature and getting exercise.



Red Maple

I appreciate Lexington's wooded areas and other green spaces, and I am eager to be a voice on Town Meeting that places a priority on conservation. From my knowledge about the Wright Farm property, I believe it is land that if purchased by the town, might be well suited for a combination of pre-

served open space, and paths for walking and mountain biking (ideally connecting to the adjacent trail network in Burlington's forest). I think it's valuable to allow the public to access to our town's open spaces, and I view consideration and minimization of environmental impact in so doing as important as well. I look forward to learning more about this land and discussing its possible uses further. I would most certainly welcome constituents' input on this and any other matter that comes before Town Meeting.

Judith L. Zabin

781-861-0956

azabin@rcn.com

At this point there is not enough information to answer the question adequately. I am not yet sure whether I would vote for the purchase. Therefore, I'll comment on the processes that I think should be followed.

As with any land use purchase, I would base my town meeting vote on multiple considerations- topographical and wetland nature of the land, possible uses, cost and means of purchase (bonding, CPA funding, etc.)

Town land use needs are multiple. Lexington needs more open space, more affordable housing, a community center and more recreation fields. The Selectmen and the appropriate town departments- recreation, housing, conservation- should consider all these needs whenever the town acquires land.

Mary Ann Stewart

781/354-3020 MaryAnn@redoniondesign.com

See Candidates for School Committee

Precinct 2

Ken Kreutziger

781-862-1107

kenkreutziger7@aol.com

The Wright Farm site is beautiful farmland consisting of a large open field, large wetland, and wooded forest. It contains a house and large barn within the southwest corner of the site at the western edge of the large meadow. I under-

stand as part of the sale, the owner wants to move the barn behind the house on a single parcel to be used by an elderly family member until her passing, at which time use of this parcel would go to the Town for its use. Guarantees would need to be obtained that the barn is moved as soon as practicable after Town purchase. The primary use anticipated is conservation of the large meadow east of the house from Grove Street up to the northerly tree line maintained as a mowed pasture and the wetland areas. Opportunities exist for affordable housing as a secondary use. The construction of walking paths north of the preserved wetland areas can connect with paths in Burlington's landlocked forest and Lexington will need to determine whether mountain bike use is allowed in Lexington. After the passing of the relative living on the parcel containing the house and barn, they can be preserved and converted to affordable housing units as a secondary use on the site.

Peter Lee

leefamlex@yahoo.com

I'm in favor of efforts to increase conservation land, open space, and recreation resources, having voted in favor of these efforts and Community Preservation (CPA), including the Busa Farm property.

I am inclined to vote favorably for the Wright Farm property, but without critical information such as proposed price, possible purchase conditions, and property details, it is difficult to provide credible suggestions for use of the property. I look forward to a full and informed discussion during Town Meeting, based on the proposals presented.

Richard Neumeier

RNeumeier@morrisonmahoney.com

Since agreement has not been reached, it is premature for me to recommend what use(s) the town should utilize for this property if it were acquired since I am unfamiliar with it. If it is acquired I would be quite interested in hearing from the Conservation Commission, Recreation

Committee, abutters, CLC, Selectmen, and other interested parties in their thoughts about what should be done.

Precinct 3

Michael D. Bliss

508-878-7360

mbliss@rcn.com

I believe the over-riding need of the Town--and indeed all of New England-- is for varied habitat. Too much of the Town's open space and conservation land is second growth woodland. To support and encourage the insect, bird and wild-life populations that are historically associated with New England we need to accept that some active management of open space is required in order to create the habitats, such as meadows and pasture, they require. Traditional landscapes also have important cultural values, values that should not be ignored. As a relative newcomer to the Town I am not yet in a position to suggest active uses, although as a general proposition I believe that a community farm (such as the one that has operated in Natick for many years) is of inestimable value.

Rosemary Donnis Levy

781-862-0633

RoseLevy@rcn.com

Lexington has many competing needs for open space- we want new soccer fields, land for community farming, more affordable housing, conservation to preserve land and protect wetlands, and wooded paths to enjoy for hiking and biking. These are all compelling reasons to purchase land when it becomes available and affordable.

The Wright Farm is a beautiful piece of property- 14 acres of open space, mostly wooded, with a large barn and house. Because of its location at the edge of Lexington's northwest border, it has inherent value in providing a natural link to the 250 acres of landlocked forest owned by Burlington.

How should we use the Wright Farm if we purchase it? At the very least it could be developed with hiking trails to connect with the existing thirteen miles of trails in the landlocked forest. This

alone may make it a worthwhile purchase. Studies would need to be done to determine its feasibility for community farming, athletic fields, and/or affordable housing.

Margaret Storch

781-863-1872 margaretstorch@yahoo.com

Given Lexington's heritage as a farming community and an increasing desire for locally grown food, it seems appropriate to preserve something of the current function of Wright's Farm. I suggest that the open pasture portion of the property might be made available for growing produce. A segment of the land could be set aside for the use of students in the Lexington schools as a site for educational programs and class projects. The remainder might be divided into plots and rented out to residents for their own use, with the aim of making the whole area a model for organic methods of cultivation. If the house is in a condition to be renovated at reasonable cost, it could serve as an instruction and meeting center for activities related to the farm area.

The wooded portion of the property, depending on its size, might be devoted to recreation. If an inter-town agreement is feasible, it could become an extension of the Burlington forest with access to the larger area for residents of both towns.

I make these suggestions without yet having a full understanding of the Town's needs and priorities, or of the wishes of those who live in the immediate neighborhood of Wright Farm. I realize what I am proposing may not match the current situation.

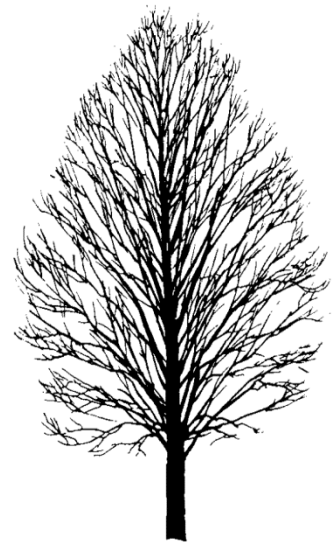
Precinct 4

Gloria Bloom

781 862 4198 gloria.bloom@lexingtontmma.org

Wright Farm has been on the Conservation Commission's list for years, yet the town has been unable to reach an agreement with the property owners. The purchase of the Cotton Farm land has set a precedent of a very high price for open land. If an agreement is reached,

I would support the use of a large portion of the land for conservation purposes. The location on a small street at a far corner of town makes uses of affordable housing and recreation more problematic, but if the Selectmen appointed a committee which analyzed the site as thoroughly and as well as the Busa Land Use committee, I would support the committee's recommendations.



Sugar Maple

Peter D. Enrich

781-861-7637 penrich@rcn.com

The Wright Farm property is one of the most significant remaining opportunities for open space acquisition by the Town. After years of pursuing this property, it would be very exciting to finally secure it for the future.

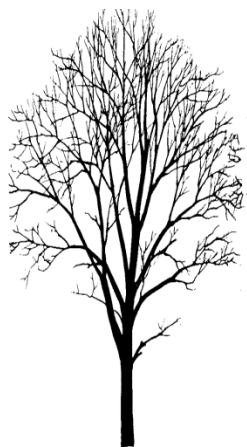
If we are able to purchase it, maintaining it in much its present condition as open land usable perhaps for some agricultural uses and/or passive recreation is certainly an attractive option. It is a beautiful piece of land in its present state, and would make a valuable addition to the other protected land in that part of town.

At the same time, I've learned in my years in Town Meeting and as a selectman that decisions like this cannot be quickly or lightly made. There are a number of other important competing demands for uses of town land, including athletic fields and affordable housing among others. Before committing the land to one use, it will be important to weigh the competing alternatives and their impacts on both the land itself and the neighborhood. This is never an easy process, but, given the strict limits on available land and resources, we need to go through an open process in deciding how best to be stewards of the land in our control.

Jill Hai
j.hai@verizon.net

I support the establishment, preservation and enjoyment of Conservation land in general and specifically in Lexington. I am in favor of the preservation of open spaces and recreational uses of such land which change the character as little as possible. Unfortunately, however, I can't give an informed answer to your specific question, as so many factors are unknown. When an Article comes to Town Meeting for consideration, we receive thorough and thoughtful background information, informed presentations regarding the costs, possible uses, impacts and benefits for the community. These materials are put together by people who have access to all the facts – which in this case would include the parameters of what land will be purchased, any limitations or terms which come out of the negotiations and even how it will be funded (e.g. through Community Preservation Act Funds). I am committed to attending information sessions, reading all offered materials, listening to proponents and opponents, speaking with neighbors and other residents and then making my decisions regarding how I will vote on any given question, including disposition of land. Without specifics, I can not fairly judge how best the Wright Farm lands should or even could be used. I look forward to receiving thoughtful proposals and supporting information should the negotiations succeed.

David Harris
781-674-0010
david.harris@genzyme.com



Butternut

In this case as in most cases of potential land acquisition by the Town, a careful consideration of the various possible uses of the land should be undertaken in an open forum. I believe that the location of this property is such that a good case can be made for placement of at least

a portion of it in conservation. Consideration also should be given to other possible uses for

appropriate portions of the property, such as recreation, community farming, and affordable housing.

Ellen McDonald
781-354-6028
emcdonald@rcn.com

I work at a local area university that is currently experiencing a space crunch. The traditional approach to this problem has been to find open land on campus and construct new buildings. But open space is fast disappearing and our Environmental Sciences faculty cautions planners that new construction is our least Green and most unsustainable remedy. Rather, we need to explore solutions such as repurposing existent buildings, extending hours of classroom/lab/office use, and building up rather than out. The cost savings of simply building on available open land disappear when negative externalities are tallied-- impervious surface and drainage problems, increased cooling loads and energy costs, loss of animal habitats and natural oases, etc.

Here in Lexington, we are also ready—some would say past due—for new thinking regarding land use policies. The answer to crowded streets, busy playing fields and housing shortages can no longer always be more pavement, fields and construction. We are running out of space and the time has come for us to work harder at reducing traffic, extending field playtime, and preserving affordable housing.

Under our current land conservation practices, the Wright Farm acquisition is likely to spark a land rush among competing interests similar to that generated by the Busa land purchase. Fourteen acres of open space is sure to attract plenty of interest from a wide range of interest groups. But decisions about how to use this property should rest on its intrinsic features and inherent value...all of which should be studied, enhanced and protected. Farmed for over 100 years, this land can support both food and animal production. It is also situated near woodland and recreational trails. At a time when farm acreage and open space are fast disappearing from our landscape, the Wright Farm offers a rare opportunity for the implementation of creative conservation

practices that will exploit the physical features of this land while also protecting its beauty.

Gerald Paul

781-861-6279

gerry@bu.edu

I strongly support the acquisition of the Wright Farm property if the price is in line with other recent open space acquisitions. I was a vocal supporter of the acquisition of Cotton Farm in Precinct 4.

Assuming the house and barn are structurally sound, they should be retained and the scenic vista from Grove St. should be preserved. And, of course, as a member of the Lexington Tree Committee, I believe no trees on the wooded portion should be removed.

As we have seen recently, the use of open space can be a complex issue. My initial preference is that the land be used for passive recreation. I will reserve a final position until the land acquisition is imminent and the detailed features of the property are better known.

Precinct 5

John O. Hayward

258 Woburn St.
Lexington Ma 02420

First we must know the town's needs and its resources to meet these needs. Then a decision can be made. Best to wait til Town Meeting presentations.

Sam Silverman

smpr111@verizon.net

In my thirty plus years in Town Meeting I have learned that it is best to hear all the arguments at Town Meeting before making a definite decision on what should be done. This is particularly true in the case of the Wright Farm property. It is my understanding that there is not at the present time, nor has there been for some time past, an agreement on purchase price. So all I can do at this time is to present some questions and some general comments. I would first of all want to

know whether there have been any discussions with Burlington regarding the use of their adjoining property: is it definitely to be maintained as a conservation area? If so, can we coordinate usage of adjacent Lexington property, as regards hiking etc. and other possible uses. If the Burlington property is eventually to be developed, then to what extent, and what would be the impact on any adjoining Lexington land? Speaking generally I am in favor of conservation land being kept free of other uses. Joint usage tend to one use taking over the atmosphere of the entire property. The discussions of what those joint uses might be also involve contentious arguments, as in the current discussions of the Busa farm property. I think there is good reason to try to maintain some fraction of a town's area for use as undeveloped land – we need the trees, the hiking trails. So, as regards the Wright farm, let us wait and see whether it becomes a real issue, what is the possible fate of the Burlington adjoining property, and the specific proposals to be made.

Precinct 6

Jane Pagett

jrpagett@rcn.com

I have not yet received the Warrant for the 2012 Town Meeting. In the absence of the details from the Warrant, and especially in the presence of the circumstances surrounding the Busa farm purchase, I am very cautious about approving large land purchases for the Town.

The business of acquiring assets for the Town is a serious responsibility of Town Meeting and necessitates a planning process that delineates what the Town will do with the land, costs and benefits, etc. For the integrity of this process, Town Meeting cannot be told that the land is for one purpose and learn, after purchase, that special interest advocates have taken it for their own purposes.

The Wright Farm is a beautiful parcel that would likely lend itself to open space. In the absence of specifics, however, I will not recommend or disapprove its purchase. Once burned....

Bebe Fallick
sopitown@rcn.com

This piece of property has been on the Conservation Commission's wish list for a number of years. Several previous attempts to purchase it have fallen apart. Given the unknowns, such as the family's decisions as to the various possibilities of retaining ownership, it is somewhat difficult to comment with precision. I would imagine that in addition to Conservation, Recreation and Housing would want a piece of the land for their purposes.

The land has wetlands at the edge and a significant slope to the pasture land. The beauty of the open land, the occasional grazing horses, the old house and the small farm stand are a charming and disappearing reminder of Lexington's past. In its gateway position at the edge of Lexington, I personally would like to see it remain as it is, as much as that may be possible.

Edith Sandy
esandy@rcn.com

The Wright Farm, off Grove Street at the Bedford Town line, has been on the Conservation Commission's "wish list" for a very long time. It would certainly be a wonderful addition to our conservation holdings. Its open space would provide a beautiful gateway to Lexington, similar to the potential for the Busa Farm in East Lexington. More importantly, it would provide additional access to the Landlocked Forest, a large parcel of open space in Burlington, and also, via the Landlocked Forest, to Lexington's very popular and well-used Paint Mine Conservation land. That said, however, it is entirely premature to consider potential uses for the property at this point, because we don't know the purchase price, we don't know how much of the acreage is under consideration for purchase, we don't know whether or not the buildings will be included, and we don't know what, if any, agreement will have been reached by the time Town Meeting starts.

I worry that the purchase of Cotton Farm last year may have had a permanent effect of discouraging future potential conservation acquisitions in desirable upland areas because it may

have set a precedent of an unsustainably high purchase price of a million dollars per acre for such land.

Sheldon Spector
781-861-1607 duckysq@aol.com

The Wright Farm on Grove Street is well known to me since several times a week I pass this pristine property en route to my volunteering at the Veterans Hospital in Bedford (in fact again today January 26). Furthermore I have purchased vegetables at Wright Farm in the summer and at times watched the two horses freely grazing (not a common sight in Lexington). While I am not overly familiar with the back/middle areas of this property, this gateway to Lexington (like other Lexington gateway open lands) provides a lovely vista and separation at the end of our Town, much in some ways like Wilson Farm, the farmlands along Waltham Street toward the Waltham town border and Busa Farm by Arlington. Open land or perhaps continued farm/farming seems appropriate for Wright Farm and I will await more information and specific proposals.

Precinct 7

Jim Goell
781 274-8151 jim.goell@ieee.org

The Wright farm is in an attractive location for conservation and hiking. It is adjacent to a large woodland area that backs on Route 128 which limits access. It is located on the edge of town making it unattractive for many other uses and could provide a buffer for Lexington, if it is needed. Furthermore, we have run out of land that can be used for conservation.

However I need to learn more about it before deciding what should be done. I believe that Town Meeting members should hear all proposals before taking a position and should run on their background and skills rather than being advocates for specific positions. As a Town Meeting member I am open to the idea of most or all of the land being dedicated to conservation use but must hear the rest of the story before decid-

ing how to vote. I look forward to learning more about it.

Raul Marques-Pascual

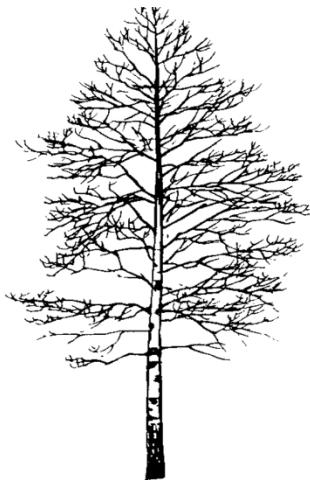
781-863-5692 rangeway@rcn.com

I know the Wright Farm well. I have been a customer of their food stand for a long time and because of my role as co-founder of The Lexington Farmers Market I have developed a relationship with Kathy Wright and her nephew Dave. I have been to the several fields, patting the horses, picking corn and tomatoes, and listened to stories about the farm and surrounding area. I am also familiar with the Landlocked Forest having walked on it many times in the seventeen years we have called Lexington home. We are fortunate to have these properties in the neighborhood. I would like to see the Wright Farm remain a farm. I would suggest that for inspiration about possible uses to look at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln MA, a CSA farm with educational programs. As a member of Lexington Conservation Stewards organization I have been working to keep open land for future generations and feel very strongly that the Wright Farm should be part of this legacy.

Fred H. Martin

smartin29@rcn.com

The Wright Farm, off Grove St. is a magnificent piece of property and would be a wonderful addition to Lexington. Depending upon the size of the parcel under negotiation it could be envisioned for passive recreation, playing fields or some combination, and as an additional buffer to nearby expected Burlington development.



Quaking Aspen

However the questions of potential use are premature. At this writing we don't know the dimensions nor the price nor any restrictions nor availability. Let the process

take it's course, we just don't have enough information at this time to express preferences.

John D. Pompeo

781-862-0147 johnpompeo@yahoo.com

I pass by this peaceful, picturesque land and I can't imagine it being any other way. Therefore, I am in favor of protecting this land, leaving the open space portion in its natural state, and preventing the detrimental impact of home development on the neighborhood. This beautiful place's proximity to Burlington's landlocked forest and Lexington's Paint Mine Conservation land only bolsters my hope of leaving Wright Farm in its natural state for today and future generations.

Precinct 8

Andrei Radulescu-Banu

617 216 8509 (cell) 781 862 5854 (home)
www.andrei4schools.com

See Candidates for School Committee

Shirley Stolz

shirleystolz@msn.com

The two warrant articles are about the same parcel, the 14 acre Wright farm on Grove St. and present funding and philosophical choices. One article asks for funding within the regular budget for conservation purposes only, possibly needing a debt financing to cover the cost of the purchase which is presently unknown. The second would ask for funding out of community preservation funds which uses are broader defined by the legislation of the act as conservation, affordable housing and historic preservation... so perhaps a mixed use would be the outcome.

For many years this land has been on the priority list of properties considered critical by the conservation commission. At this time there is no project on the table as negotiations proceed, and town boards await an agreement by the Wright family to sell and information as to the price. The land then needs review by the Selectmen, the Community Preservation Commit-

tee and both the Capital Expenditures and Appropriation Committee before a recommendation to Town meeting for purchase. [I am member of the Capital Expenditures Committee]. Bearing in mind that "we don't have a project" yet, I can only say that I would favor buying all or any part of it for conservation with the caveat that the cost and financing must be a reasonable value to the town.

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See Candidates for Lexington Housing Authority

Precinct 9

Narain Bhatia

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The Wright farm is a large area of 14 acres adjacent to a large wooded forest that belongs to Burlington. While I have not had the opportunity to understand the land features and zoning of this parcel of land, I know there is one house on it and the farm is located at the end of the western edge of the town on Bedford line. Based on the recent history of the cost of purchasing land for conservation purposes, I suspect the price will be a hefty one and may find difficult sailing at the town meeting.. Its location makes it less accessible for many residents of Lexington as opposed to the Busa farm. Among the likely uses of community farming, recreation, affordable housing, and trails, the most desirable uses, based on my understating of town needs, should be affordable housing, recreation and providing access to adjacent Burlington trails.

William Kennedy
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The land seems to be in an appropriate location for use as conservation land and a potential location for low-moderate income housing that would fit with the character of the neighborhood. However, I would like to hear more about potential uses of the Wright farm in order to answer this question further.

Richard Canale

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See Candidate for Planning Board

Mark R. Vitunic

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I do not support the proposed purchase of the Wright Farm by the Town of Lexington using CPA, tax levy, or any other funds. Just last year, the town purchased Busa Farm without a solid purpose and is still arguing over what to do with it. Fast forward ten years, and the town might one day own Wilson Farm, Four Fillies Farm, and Wagon Wheel Nursery and Farm Stand. Do we really want the Town of Lexington to own all of the farms in town? What then?

The CPA was sold under false promises, has unintended consequences, and should be repealed- it forces a surtax on Lexington taxpayers which when used to purchase private property, removes those properties from the tax levy, further increasing everyone else's taxes. Imagine the logical conclusion of continuing this policy in perpetuity...

I drive by the Wright Farm property all the time- there is no parking for considerable public access. The best option would be to find a private buyer for the property (perhaps even someone in your membership) who would agree to keep the property as is, and maybe even farm it. I support conservation but prefer private solutions to achieve the goals of the CLC.

Justine Wirtanen

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The Wright Farm is a beautiful piece of property that I feel the Town could utilize while continuing to preserve the bucolic feel of the land. I think the steep grading of the property does not make it viable for recreational fields. I would suggest the Town use a few acres where appropriate to build some affordable housing units. I also think a few acres could be used for public farming. The remaining acres left could be left open for hikers and mountain bikers. If possible a few trails could be made to connect to those trails owned by the town of Burlington.