

and the development of a plan that will provide baseline data on the health of the pond, a program for maintaining the ongoing water quality, quantify issues associated with private land ownership within the White Pond watershed, and a position on the recreational uses and limitations of the Pond. The Town made this application on behalf of the WPAC and the plan is being carried out by the DNR. The WPAC feels this plan is of the utmost importance to ensure that White Pond and its watershed will maintain its clear waters for the enjoyment of future generations.

#### *Building and Renovations in the White Pond Area*

A continuing responsibility of the WPAC is to work with the Building Commissioner and Town Committees in review and advice in regards to new construction (e.g., additions, landscape changes, etc.) in the White Pond Watershed to ensure that the health of the pond and its environs is preserved. A number of these reviews were performed and the committee approved each. Of particular concern to the WPAC is any activity that would have an adverse affect on the quality of the Pond water and surrounding habitat.

#### *Solar Siting Committee*

One of the potential sites identified by the Solar Siting Committee is the White Pond Reservation. In the opinion of the WPAC, a large scale solar installation would severely and negatively impact White pond and the surrounding environs. The WPAC engaged in discussions with the Solar Siting Committee and communicated concerns about the potential negative impact on the Pond and surrounding habitat that would result from clearing such a large portion of the reservation and building a large scale solar installation.

#### *Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT)*

The WPAC has been involved in discussions surrounding the BFRT, to ensure that the Pond is properly protected given that the proposed trail passes closely to White Pond. WPAC is working with the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and other groups such as Concord based Friends of Rural Trails and the Friends of the BFRT. WPAC feels it is important to elevate awareness of the impacts of the trail construction, activities, and increased visitor traffic on the health and aesthetics of the Pond, and on the wildlife corridor, while encouraging Town usage of this great asset.

## AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

James Catterton, Chair  
Charles Poutasse, Clerk  
Jennifer Verrill  
Jennifer Hashley  
Kenney

Since our formation as a Town committee in 2006, the Agricultural Committee has worked to promote agriculture in Concord.

This year's growing season was as close to "normal" as we get around here. There was fairly regular rainfall through the season. Most farmers had a very good year. Tropical Storm Irene put a dent in the tomato season in late August with high winds and some rain. This was followed by a mild fall, with first frost in early October, snow in late October, and no serious freezes until late November.

Retail sales were strong. Concord's three new CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture) Kenney Farm, Salt Box Farm and Bare Root Farm were successful.

#### *Ag Day*

The Committee sponsored a sixth farmers' market festival in September on the Milldam, with a good turnout and good sales on a beautiful Labor Day Weekend Saturday. "Ag Day" remains popular with townspeople and visitors and worthwhile for growers.

#### *Guide to the Farm stands of Concord*

We are continuing to distribute this informative brochure. It is a useful guide for residents and visitors alike.

#### *Stone Soup Dinner*

The fourth Stone Soup Dinner again featured Concord grown produce prepared by Concord chefs. This was once again a huge success. The event was held in September at Verrill Farm. Many hands were involved in food preparation and service for more than 300 who ate very well.

The Stone Soup Dinner has its own Board and operates on its own. It made three "Plant a Farmer" grants in 2011 to help new farmers in Town.

#### *Agricultural Drainage Ditches*

Led by Committee member Chip Poutasse, farmers at 9 Acre Corner hired a ditch dredger and opened the ditch that drains Willow Guzzle. The ditch has been clogged

with silt from the Howe land for almost 20 years. The work funded privately but conducted in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources. This work should make land in Willow Guzzle tillable again. There is more work to do in addressing the various problems associated with Concord's ancient and inconsistently maintained system of agricultural drainage ditches.

#### *Farming Bylaw*

The Committee brought a Farming Bylaw, drafted by the late Gordon Bell, to Town Meeting in April where it was well received.

The Farming Bylaw highlights the importance of farming to the Town of Concord and reminds non-farm residents that generally accepted agricultural practices are reasonable activities that they should expect to see here. It reiterates that farming is a valued and accepted activity in Concord. It is intended to help promote understanding between farmers and their neighbors, and will provide a Town-level procedure for resolution of disputes.

#### *New Committee Members*

Committee Chair Dan Giurleo, John Bemis and Jim Waymen stepped down after serving their five-year terms. Jim Catterton was voted in as Committee Chair. The Board of Selectmen appointed three new members: Jen Hashley, Bill Kenney, and Chip Poutasse. All are actively farming and bring new perspectives to the Committee. Bill Kenney is a large scale grower who has just started a CSA, Jen Hashley of Pete and Jen's Backyard Birds also runs the new farmer program through Tufts, and Chip Poutasse, Brigham Farm is a practicing CPA.

Newly appointed Associate members are Susan Macone, Dudley Goar and Brian Cramer.

#### *Inventory of Farms, Agricultural Parcels and Farmers*

We have continued this work, identifying some 300 parcels of land that are either currently farmed, or once were farmed and have the potential to be put back in production. Not all of this land will be used for agriculture, but there is considerable room for expanded farming.

#### *In the Coming Year*

Clearing House: The Committee intends to establish a procedure to match up farmers and underutilized agricultural parcels, Town, State, Federal, non-profit and private.

Young Farmers: The Committee would like to assist and foster young farmers.

Other Issues: The Committee has discussed and will consider further Agriculture in the schools, new farmers, buy local, ag worker housing, and the farm at MCI Concord.

Concord still has an ample base of good farmland. Active agriculture will succeed in Concord if there are people who want to work the land and markets for our products. Concord produces high quality vegetables, fruit, flowers and meat, and there are good opportunities to expand production and sell what we grow.

## CONCORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

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The Concord Land Conservation Trust (P.O. Box 141, Concord, MA) is a tax exempt, charitable organization established in 1959, with membership open to all who are interested in conservation of our natural resources. It complements other conservation efforts of the town, state and national governments and offers an alternative and a balance to development in our Town.

The Land Trust works closely with its affiliate, the Concord Open Land Foundation. COLF generally acquires property that may be preserved only in part or used as a means for preserving other property. For example, at the end of 2011, COLF acquired through a bargain/sale and generous gift by Paul and Susan Ware 8.6 acres of property between the Ripley School and the Ridge behind Lexington Road. COLF will sell as a house lot the greater portion of 201 Independence Road, on which a house is now situated, and transfer the remainder of the acreage to the Land Trust for permanent conservation.