Lexington Board of Selectmen & Conservation Commission

ARTICLES 9 & 10: WRIGHT FARM LAND ACQUISITION INFORMATION SHEET

Updated May 9, 2012





View of the Wright Farm from Grove Street in Lexington.

## THE PROJECT

The Lexington Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission are jointly filing a request with the Community Preservation Committee for the Town to acquire a significant portion of the Wright Farm, an approximately 12.6 acre area on Grove Street in the northwest corner of Lexington, for conservation purposes. The total cost to the Town will be \$3,109,000, of which \$2,950,000 is for the acquisition of the land and \$159,000 is for additional ancillary due diligence costs, including land management, survey, legal, site assessment and debt service costs.

The Wright Farm, with its sweeping views of a historic farm, has long provided an attractive gateway to Lexington for travelers coming from Bedford. The view of the Wright Farm along Grove Street features a farmhouse, barn, and a well-tended field with fenced horse pasture, all bordered by woodlands in the rear. The dry upland area here could be developed into 10 residential lots, which would greatly alter what is now a well-preserved historic view. The woodlands behind the field contains a large area of

wetlands. The entire property is approximately 13.6 acres, of which 12.6 will be acquired for conservation purposes. The sketch plan provided on page 6 shows the land to be acquired by the Town (parcel 1) and the land to be retained by the Wright family (parcel 2).

In addition to its scenic beauty, the Wright Farm property has great value as open space and wildlife habitat, as well as for public passive recreational use. The property adjoins a narrow strip of wooded Lexington conservation land, which itself adjoins the Landlocked Forest in Burlington, a large area of wooded open space. Together, these contiguous open spaces provide an important wildlife corridor. The Landlocked Forest in Burlington also contains several long trails that are regularly used by hikers and bicyclists. The Wright Farm provides another Lexington point of access to these trails, which can now be reached only from Paint Mine Conservation Area by way of the open power line easement off Turning Mill Road. This acquisition would also enable a trail connection (across Grove Street/Page Road) to the open space surrounding Bedford's Old Reservoir.

## HISTORY

The Conservation Commission's interest in the Wright Farm is longstanding. In November 1990, the Town, at the Commission's request, had an appraisal of the property prepared. At that time, the owners decided to postpone any decision on a sale due to differences of opinion within the family. In 1996, the property was included in the Commission's Land Acquisition Planning Report and placed near the top of the list of private properties considered to be highly desirable for acquisition. This report was incorporated into the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan in 1996 and its 2009 update. Over time, the Commission has continued to check in with the Wright Farm owners to ascertain their interest in selling the property, but the family continued to disagree about conveyance of the property until recently, when the family approached the Town about selling the property.

## IMPACT

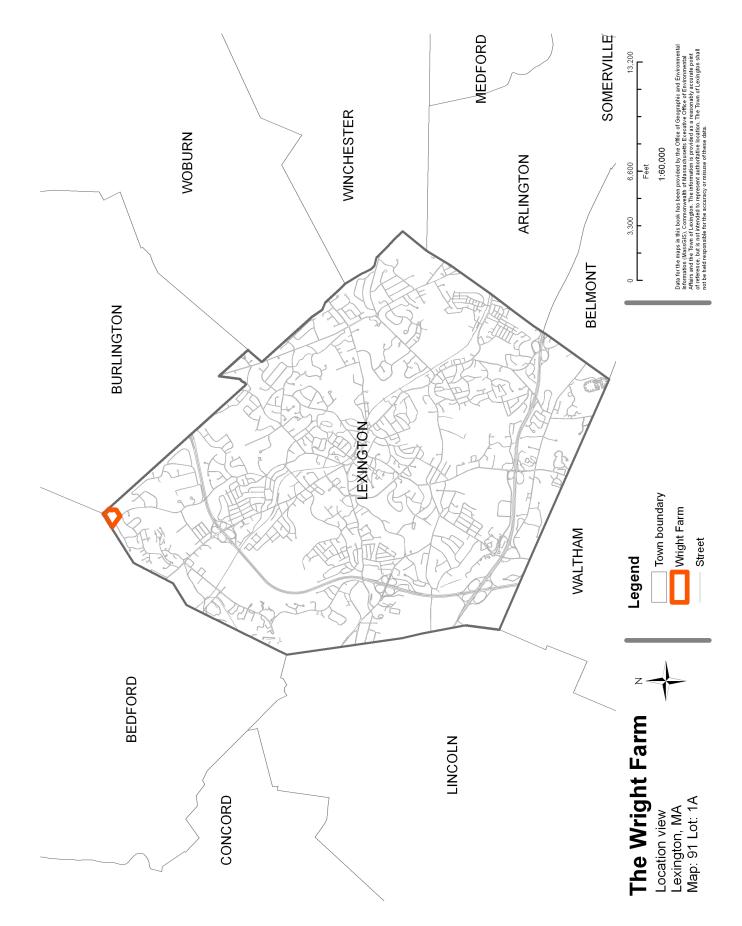
If the Wright Farm is not acquired for conservation purposes, a scenic historic farm landscape and attractive gateway to Lexington will be lost to residential development. Development of this site will adversely impact the town's ability to create open space connections, trail networks, and wildlife corridors. A by right subdivision proof plan included in this packet shows that the 12.6 acre portion of the site can be subdivided into 10 buildable lots.

## ACCOMPANYING MAPS

- Location View: indicates the Wright Farm's location in Lexington and in relation to neighboring towns.
- Landscape View: indicates the Wright Farm's location in relation to other nearby open spaces.
- Parcel View: indicates the layout of the Wright Farm parcel, including wetland areas and 10-foot contours.
- Sketch Plan Showing Parcel 1: indicates the land to be acquired by the Town for conservation purposes (parcel 1) and the land to be retained by the Wright family (parcel 2).
- By Right Subdivision Proof Plan: indicates potential development lots on the Wright Farm.



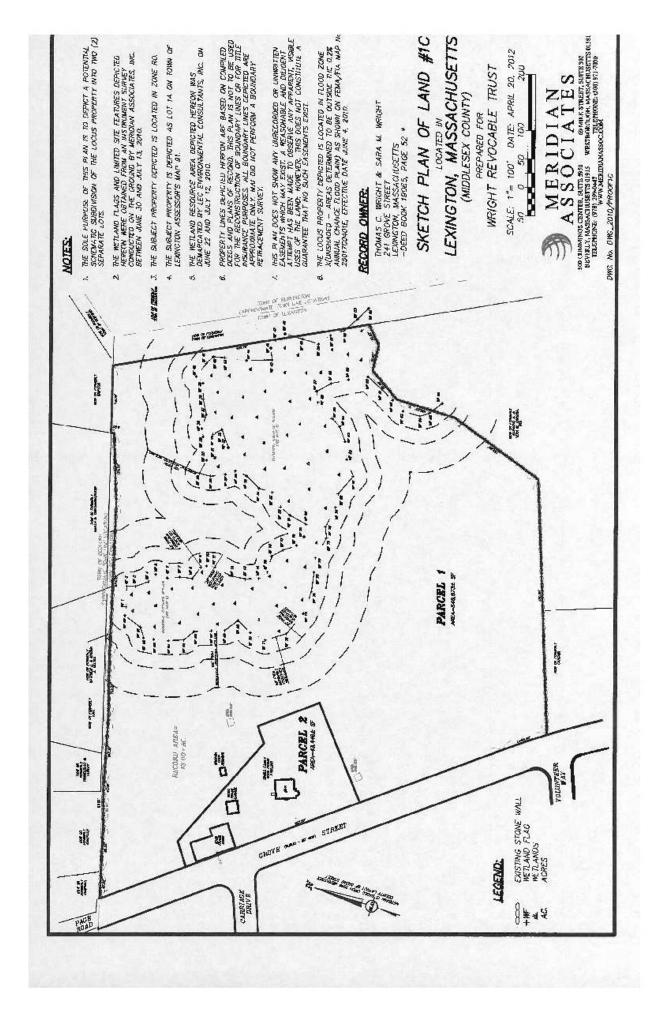
View of the Wright Farm, including barn, from Grove Street in Lexington.

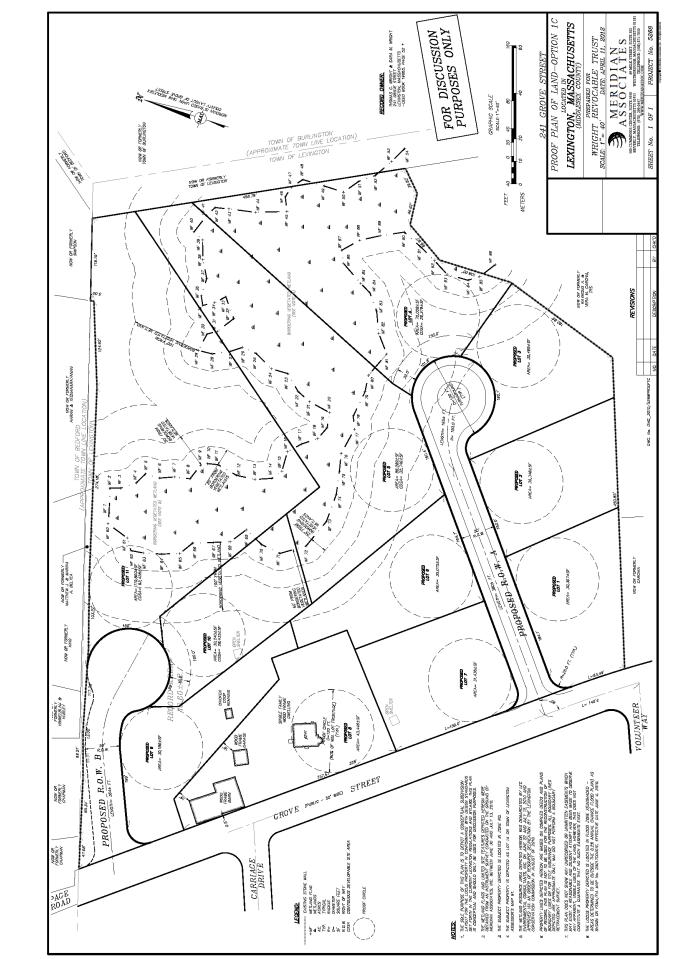






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