

206 Nagog Hill Road  
Acton, Massachusetts 01720  
July 15, 1983

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The Acton Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 236  
Acton, Massachusetts 01720

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the nature of the conservation land which is located across the street from our home, i.e., the land directly abutting the McConnon farm.

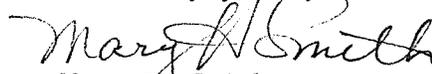
The McConnon's home is one of the historic landmarks in Acton. The open fields in their present condition help to preserve the authenticity of an eighteenth century farmhouse. There are few of these remaining and anything we can do as a community that will not have any adverse effects on our citizenry should be encouraged. In our opinion the present conditions that surround the area do that. Natural maintenance of the fields via grazing animals is environmentally sound, financially advantageous, and contributes aesthetically to the community.

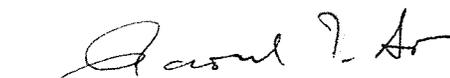
We would like to make a few comments in regard to the above. One, having the open fields allows for a different type of recreation and wildlife than the more heavily wooded land. If the horses do not use the fields to graze the only way to maintain the area will be mechanical mowing. The grass will not be used for any end purpose. Two, the town will have to pay a considerable amount of money to mow the fields. If the community can be served by a fellow citizen whose needs happen to coincide with community objectives, we should most certainly work in this direction. This is dictated by environmental principles and economic efficiency.

The last point we would like to make is the generosity of the McConnon's in not only restoring the site to an eighteenth century farm, but allowing interested people to explore the area. Many times we have been present when complete strangers stop to comment on the beautiful barn and horses. Mrs. McConnon has graciously guided people around the area. She is very open about the fact that the horses graze on conservation land, to which the response has always been approval of this kind of land use.

We recommend and encourage the Conservation Committee to continue the present usage of this land.

Sincerely yours,

  
Mary H. Smith

  
(Dr.) Raoul N. Smith

cc: Mr. & Mrs. T. B. McConnon