November 26, 2011

Acton Conservation Commission
Town of Acton
Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

To the Acton Conservation Commission:

My name is Jennifer Izzo and I live directly across from Hybid Farm on Nagog Hill Road. I am writing to express my support of Hybid Farm. We love having the farm across the street. In fact, it's a big reason why we decided to move here. It is fun to watch the horses and see the kids connecting with the animals and each other. I feel good knowing that someone so close to me is helping to make the world a better place. The positive energy from the farm fairly radiates across the street to our house.

I understand that the Commission is concerned about the number of horses at Hybid Farm. However, from the perspective of someone who lives across the street, I don't see the farm as harmfully over-taxing the land. The farm's operations are organized and efficient. We have never had a problem with the number of people or animals over at the farm. Everyone at the farm is respectful. They do everything humanly possible to minimize their impact on the land and the neighbors.

I hope the Conservation Commission will permit Hybid Farm to continue to operate as it has been. Hybid Farm is a real asset to Nagog Hill Road and to Acton.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Izzo

226 Nagog Hill Road
Acton, MA 01720

November 22, 2011

To the Acton Conservation Committee,

I am hoping that this letter and the many other letters that you receive, will have an impact on your view and treatment of Rita McConnon and Hybid Farm. I feel great sadness that she is being put under such stress and duress as a result of your inability to work with her, to resolve differences and perceived problems between yourselves and her successful business of 31 years.

There are not many people in the world today like Rita, she gives her life and soul to others, she judges no one, she gives opportunities to everyone who shows willingness and interest. She opens doors and never closes them. She is a positive and enthusiastic person with a huge heart. She teaches respect , independence , she builds confidence and pride in all the young people that she works with today and over the years.

Her horses are dear friends to many people, she has had to take in many of these animals because people beg her. They cannot look after them, towns don't know and are unwilling to deal with them. She spends thousands of dollars bringing these animals back to health and many more thousands on vetinary bills. She faces real problems every day that many (such as yourselves) do not seek to address, and do not wish to solve but just want them to go away. She manages her own land and the leased land with equal care and respect. She cuts the grass, removes the manure and generally maintains it to a very high standard. She acts as a highly responsible steward of the land.

I think with all of the care and due diligence she has given to the land and the town of Acton, in addition to paying for the use of the land, the least the Conservation Committee could do is to have a dialogue with Rita to work out differences. I find it astounding that there is not a mutually agreeable solution where the land can be continued to be used by Hybid Farm so that Rita's thriving business can keep on flourishing.

She has a healthy business with many supporters and a large faithful clientele. In today's economy that is impressive and it should not be taken away from her. For the conservation committee to stamp out a strong viable business that employs people and gives so much back to the community through it's programs, is astounding and totally irresponsible. I cannot understand what the Acton Conservation group is trying to achieve with their insistence on reducing the number of horses at Hybid Farm. What is even more puzzling is how far your committee is willing to go to see Hybid Farm squashed to a mere shadow of it's former self.

I hope these letters will make a difference and you will see the much bigger picture that Hybid offers to a wide group of people. It is not just about the number of horses to the number of acres of land. Hybid Farm is about so much more than that.

Sincerely

Fiona FitzGerald and family

Concord, Ma.