



ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ❖ ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 12, 2013

Stephen E. Mills, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Roland Bourdon
Chair, Community Preservation Committee
c/o Mr. Roland Bartl, Town Planner
Town Hall
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Mr. Bourdon,

I am writing in support of the Town's efforts to develop the Morrison Farm property into the Morrison Farm and History Center/outdoor park. What an exciting opportunity this will be for the students and families in Acton. The proximity to the vernal pool, gardens, fields and waterways will provide wonderful connections to our Science and Social Studies curriculums.

I have spoken with Tom Tidman frequently about this project and am quite enthused to hear it is progressing. Several years ago we had grant funds for transportation and were able to have first and second graders from the Merriam School help with the community gardens on the site. It was sometimes tough to keep children focused on their planting tasks when they kept finding earthworms. It was then we realized many of them had never dug a hole in the dirt before.

The Acton Schools have had an ongoing interest in connecting students with the natural world. Students regularly participate in nature and gardening projects, space permitting. A nearby Nature and History center would be highly valued.

As you maybe aware, we do not have a field trip budget in the Acton Public Schools. Families are assessed fees for field trip costs. While transportation to and from the farm property would be a challenge, I'm certain we can address it given enough lead time. It would certainly be less expensive to bring students to the farm in Acton than to Drumlin Farm in Lincoln for similar programs.

We look forward to being a partner in program development when the time comes.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Mills,
Superintendent

Eileen Sullivan
Elementary Curriculum Specialist
Acton Public Schools

- c. Deborah Bookis, Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Tom Tidman, Director of Conservation and Recreation