

From: William Mullin [WMullin@wcu.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 7:17 PM
To: Community Preservation Committee
Cc: Morrison Committee
Subject: FW: New Siting
Attachments: Morrison Farm Brochure-trifold_02-25-13_2 (2).pdf; Morrison Farm Master_Plan 022213.pdf; Morrison Farm NH Center Detail_022513.pdf

Hello-

At our last meeting, a couple of my takeaway assignments were:

1. To get more specificity and consensus around the siting of the community gathering building, and
2. To get more clarity on the feelings of the Board of Selectmen with respect thereto.

Quite briefly, I believe we have made excellent progress on both counts.

1. Please find a new overall site plan with a closer window at the siting of the Morrison Nature & History Center. This new plan arose from the ideas of John Earle, one of the community gardeners and has received a lot of positive feedback. Last Wednesday, the Morrison Farm Committee voted unanimously to support this siting of the building. It has many benefits, including maintaining the relationship between the farmhouse and the new building as the existing barn is not reasonably salvageable for public purposes.
2. Also, last night, the BoS had a comprehensive conversation and review of our plans. I am very pleased to report that their support for creating a Living History Park at Morrison, as manifested by a vote in favor of our plan, did not change. Thank you to the BoS for this opportunity to discuss important issues in a thoughtful manner.

I am off to a FinCom meeting right now and hope to get you some more information tomorrow as answers to some of questions that have popped up, but I wanted you all to have this asap.

Sincerely,

Bill

From: William Mullin
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 3:31 PM
To: bos@acton-ma.gov
Cc: mc@acton-ma.gov; Tom Tidman (ttidman@acton-ma.gov); cfochtman@acton-ma.gov; Tom Ryan (tryan@ryan-assoc.com)
Subject: New Siting
Hello Friends-

As I promised attached are new site plans showing the shift of the Morrison Nature & History Center a bit forward.

Also, I attach our revised Trifold handout that is updated by listing the organizations that have recently written of their support for our Living History Park.

If there is something specific you would like me to address, please let me know.

Best,

Bill

Why Do We Want to Do This?

The Morrison Farm Value Proposition:

If we create a new Living History Park...



capturing the gifts of nature and the essence of Acton's four centuries of history...

at a cost of approximately \$2.8mm...

all people in Acton and our broader community...

will have a unique opportunity to experience nature, to actively and passively exercise, and to learn about our past...



while forever preserving the Morrison Farm, Ice House Pond, East Acton Village Common, and The Captain Robbins Homestead Site.



Photo: Acton Historical Society

The approval of the *Morrison Farm Implementation Plan* will ensure that this precious land, at its keystone location in our town, is saved for the enjoyment of all.



FOUR CENTURIES/ FOUR SEASONS



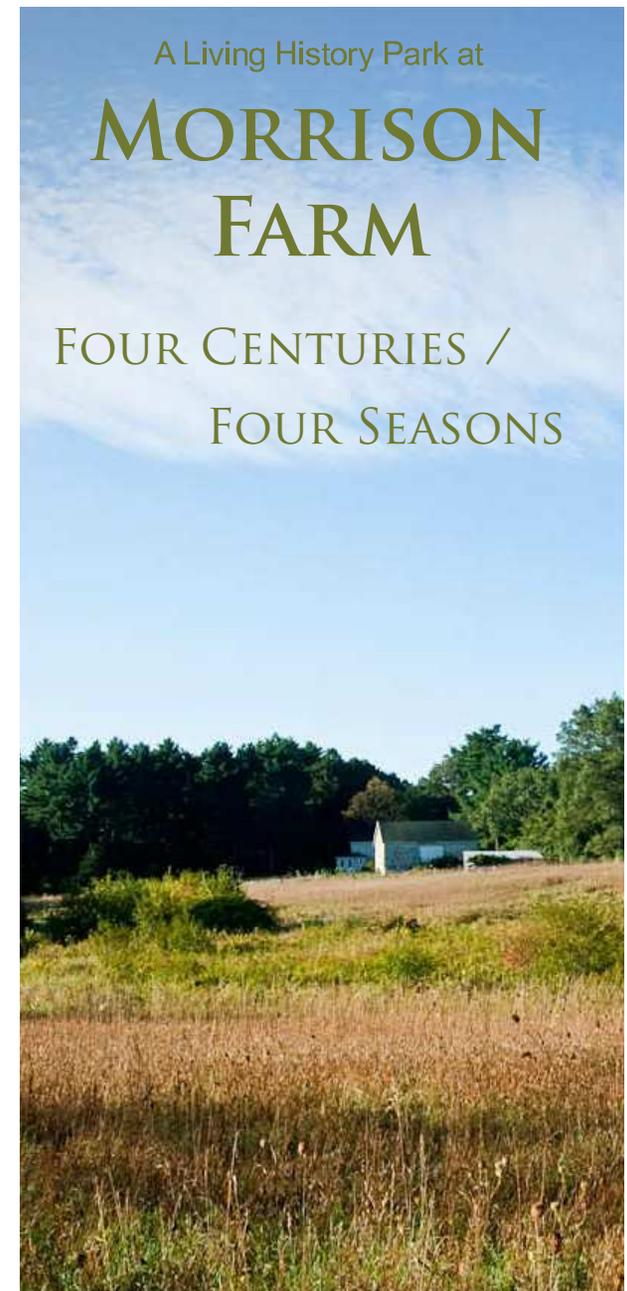
Photos by John Earle

This document has been created and paid for by The Friends of Morrison Farm, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization formed to aid with the creation of a Living History Park at Morrison Farm and nearby Town of Acton locations. For more information, please contact Bill Mullin at 978-263-5972 or wmullin@wcu.com.

A Living History Park at

MORRISON FARM

FOUR CENTURIES /
FOUR SEASONS



CREATING A NEW MULTI-PURPOSE
PARK IN THE CONTEXT OF
MORRISON FARM'S FOUR CENTURIES

Morrison Farm Committee
The Friends of Morrison Farm

What is the Morrison Farm and Why is it Important?

- Morrison Farm is a 32-acre parcel located on Concord Road, that lies between the Woodlawn Cemetery and Ice House Pond, both of which are Town-owned properties.
- Our town land is important for open space, historic preservation and recreational use.



- In 1997, Town Meeting voted to acquire the farm subject to a life estate; in 2003, the farm came under the control of the Town. Planning then commenced in earnest, and the *Morrison Farm Implementation Plan* is the end result of that planning.
- Morrison Farm is important because it is a keystone location that touches on delightful and vital town assets. The Plan preserves this land for the next 50, 100, or more years, so that the centuries of our past are connected to the imaginable years of our future.

Much like the magnificent 'Emerald Necklace' of Boston, as created by Frederick Law Olmsted over a century ago, the elements of Morrison Farm are a part of a whole, linking to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, East Acton Village, Woodlawn Cemetery and The Captain Robbins Homestead Site, and reaching toward our Historic Center of Acton.

What Are We Trying To Do?

The *Morrison Farm Implementation Plan* seeks to create a new, living history park.



The following are the major elements:

- The Forest
- The Trails
- The Organic Farms
- The Playing Field
- The Meadows
- The Morrison Nature and History Center
- The Captain Robbins Homestead Site
- The Ice House
- The Play/Picnic Grounds
- The East Acton Village Common

The Morrison Farm Committee is comprised of a broad representation of our community. Please feel free to contact any member for more information.

Bill Mullin, Chair	Andy Magee
Kitty Cunkleman, Clerk	Chip Orcutt
Charlie Aaronson	Doug Tindal
Ann Chang	Tom Tidman, Town of
Walter Foster	Acton Natural
Peter Grover	Resources Director

To view a complete copy of the *Morrison Farm Implementation Plan*, go to:

<http://www.acton-ma.gov/index.aspx?NID=276>

How Will We Get this Done?

The *Morrison Farm Implementation Plan* is a multi-element, multi-year program that seeks a total of \$2,782,000. A portion will be 'expensed', from current year Community Preservation Act funds; another portion will be 'bonded' paying over time. The following is a summary of the costs sorted by each major element of the Plan.

Element	Total
Trails	\$549,000
Infrastructure	\$654,000
Morrison Nature & History Bldg	\$985,000
Meadows/ Playing Field	\$20,000
Cap't Robbins Homestead	\$55,000
Ice House Area	\$210,000
EAV Common	\$70,000
Arch, Eng, Survey & Legal	<u>\$239,000</u>
Total	\$2,782,000

Private Donations

The Friends of Morrison Farm, Inc. is augmenting funding with private in-kind and cash resources. The Friends have commitments in excess of \$100,000, which will allow architecture, landscape architecture, archaeological survey, and civil engineering to be conducted concurrently with the approval process of the *Morrison Farm Implementation Plan*.

Broad Support

The *Morrison Farm Implementation Plan* has been endorsed by:

- The Board of Selectmen
- The Historical Commission
- The Cemetery Commission (with respect to The Captain Robbins Homestead Site)
- The Recreation Commission
- The Friends of Morrison Farm
- Acton Garden Club
- Acton Family Network
- Acton 2020 Implementation Committee

What Next?

The *Morrison Farm Implementation Plan* must be approved by Acton Town Meeting. It is anticipated that the Community Preservation Act votes will take place at Town Meeting, April 2nd or 3rd. We need you to support this Plan by coming to Town Meeting and voting "Yes." Because this program will be bonded over several years, a 2/3 vote is required.

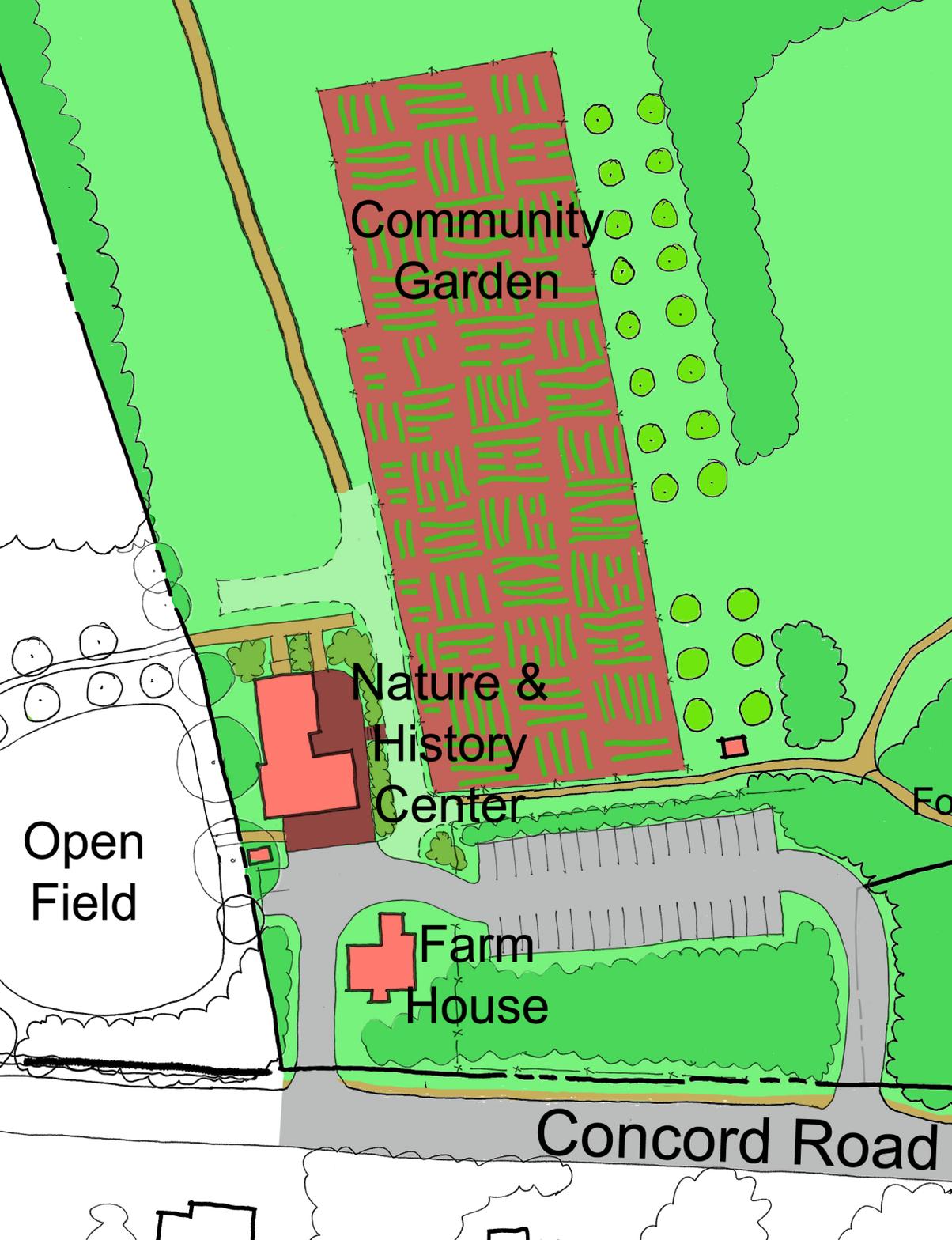
MORRISON FARM

FOUR CENTURIES /
FOUR SEASONS



MORRISON FARM
MASTER PLAN





Community
Garden

Nature &
History
Center

Open
Field

Farm
House

Concord Road