

Dear Conservation Commission,

Our recent interactions with the Conservation Commission have left us a bit worried that an updated version of our lease agreement could potentially limit the programs that we're running at Hybid Farm.

We informed friends of Hybid that we might be asked to 1) change how we use the land and/or 2) reduce our herd—either of which would negatively impact our ability to provide programs for children, nonprofits and important educational institutions. We then asked these individuals to share their feelings about “what Hybid Farm means to [them] and the rider in [their] family.”

These letters do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of Hybid Farm's owners or board, but we feel that they often communicate a deep appreciation for the things that take place at Hybid—things that have been made possible through our partnership with the town.

Since the individuals have taken the time to voice their opinions, we respectfully request that each letter be read. In addition, the majority have asked if their presence at the December 7th meeting would be helpful to the commission. Please advise before the 30th of November so we can schedule accordingly. Thank you for your time and service to the town, we know that you all have very busy schedules.

Sincerely,

Rita McConnon

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Rita Marie McConnon". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, flowing loops.

Founder and President of Hybid Farm

Making a difference

Examples of Hybrid Farm's contributions to our community



- **Scholarships and Reduced Rates For Special Interest Groups**

- **ABRHS Occupational Development Program (ODP)** - Hybrid Farm has partnered with the ODP department to provide an age appropriate, functional and inclusive education for students with moderate to intensive special needs.

- **Acton's Victor School** - Hybrid Farm partners with the Victor School to provide riding lessons and education to students with unique emotional needs.

- **Germaine Lawrence School** - Hybrid Farm provides lessons for at-risk adolescent girls, many of whom have experienced significant trauma.

- **Walden Street School** - Hybrid Farm provides lessons for students suffering from mental, emotional and behavioral issues from the Walden Street School.

- **Camp Virginia** - Each summer Hybrid Farm teaches Girl Scouts from Camp Virginia riding and barn management.

- **Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts of America** - Troops from each of these organizations come to Hybrid throughout the year to work on badges and advancements.

- **Animal Rescue**

- Hybrid Farm provides a safe, nurturing, life saving care for abused, neglected and mistreated horses.

- **Local Economy**

- Hybrid provides jobs for barn managers, riding instructors, high school students, office manager, clinicians, classroom instructors, Pony Club instructors.

- Hybrid Farm attracts hundreds of out-of-town consumers who shop for goods and services while their children are riding.

- **Charitable Contributions**

- Hybrid Farm contributes to organizations such as the Acton and Boxboro Firefighters, Susan G. Komen Cancer Research, the Special Olympics, Hazel Goddess Fund for Stroke Research for Woman, Cambridgeport Children's Center, Concord Museum, Nashoba Brooks Country Fair, Boys Town, United States Pony Club Organization, and many more.

Bringing Our Agreement Up-To-Date

Proposed measures to enable Hybid's continued contributions



1) Extending The Lease

- We propose that our longstanding lease be renewed for a 10 year term, automatically renewable upon expiration.

2) Modifying the Number of Allowed Horses

- We propose updating the lease to allow no more than 35 horses to reside on the property.

We look forward to our upcoming meeting. We're confident that we can find a resolution that will be in the best interest of Hybid, the commission and our community's citizens.