

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

November 14, 2011

Dear Sirs/Madames,

It is with great honor that I write to you on behalf of a place my three daughters have called the most "awesomest" place, Hybid Farm.

My daughters took up horseback riding almost six years ago when my oldest was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder, known as PDD which is in the autism spectrum, six years ago when she was in first grade. The horses at Hybid Farm not only taught her to ride and to strengthen her back and core muscles but they also helped her to relate to others and learn vital communication skills. The warmth and compassion of the instructors and counselors under Rita's leadership helped bring my daughter out of her shell. Today, she is blossoming into a gifted writer and an animal trainer.

I often hike in the conservation land behind Hybid Farm with my family dog. I have found that the trails are well kept without much horse droppings and erosions. I want to commend Rita in keeping her farm well contained and respecting the boundaries of her property.

Lastly, I want to share with you some of the amazing things Rita has done in rescuing unwanted horses. Daisy is one in particular. Two summers ago, I saw Daisy when she first arrived at Hybid Farm; her body nearly crippled from malnutrition and her coat almost nonexistent. The riders, counselors, instructors and Rita all pulled together to give love, care and magic to this horse. Just recently, I saw Daisy again. She has grown into such a remarkable horse. She is gentle and is adored by many riders of all ages at Hybid. Without this second chance at life, I am not sure what would have happened to Daisy. I am always impressed with all of Rita's horses. They love being together. They are well contained and cared for.

My daughters need Hybid Farm and all its existing programs. I am in awe of the transformations my oldest has undergone with the help and support at Hybid and wish that other children in need can benefit from Hybid's magic. I cannot imagine our lives without this "awesomest" place.



Kathryn K. Oh, M.D., Acton Medical Associates, PC



Dear Conservation Commission of the Town of Acton,

My son, Trevin, takes riding lessons at Hybid Farm. He has aspergers and has a very hard time relating to others. He looks forward to every single lesson with excitement and eagerness. He has been riding Reno, and has developed such a great love for this horse. It is nothing short of a miracle to watch him care for and have such empathy for an animal. Truly, this is a theraputic place. A place where so many children with disabilities can come and can gain confidence and self-esteem as they learn how to care for and ride the horses there. I have seen it happen. Hybid Farm is a place where the horses have also gone through training and "therapy" as you will so that they also have a purpose. It is a beautiful match.



I have become good friends with Rita McConnon, and know how active she is in the Acton community. She donates scholarships to many, many kids so they can come and ride. She donates to the schools. I often do my shopping while my son is riding which also benefits the town of Acton. I can not imagine why having this wonderful place, that has been benefiting the town of Acton for 31 years, would even be in question.

I have hiked along the trails behind Hybid Farm. It is a beautiful place to hike. My son has gone on a trail ride with his instructor from Hybid Farm and told me about how we need to respect the land and always stay on the trails when we are on Conservation Land. I can promise you that anyone who goes on a trail ride from Hybid would do so with the utmost respect for the land. They will not leave one piece of trash, not destroy or harm anything in nature, nor would they leave the trail. Those who hike in that very same area would be hard pressed to do the same.

Hybid Farm is a business that gives back to the community in so many ways.

I ask you to please think about what you are deciding today. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Frazier
Bolton, MA

978-634-1262



To the Members of the Acton Conservation Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I have an eight year old daughter with Asperger's Syndrome. She becomes incredibly anxious if someone tries to help her do something in a different, i.e., correct, way. She is unable to attend a normal public school because she is unable to accept instruction from a teacher, shrieking with terror at the loss of control. I have tried desperately for four years to find some activity where she can listen to and learn from a teacher, so she can experience that if she listens and does what a teacher says she gets better at something fun. I have tried swimming, ice skating, art, a little wood shop at Emerson Umbrella in Concord, gymnastics, things using computer games. All were failures. She loves animals, so I looked into horseback riding. Therapeutic riding places have waiting periods of years to get in. Regular stables are not understanding of disabilities and/or do not offer private lessons.

Last month I found Hybrid Farm. Janet is on her fourth lesson, and loves it. She takes instruction. She is calm and happy with the horses. Everyone at the stable understands her issues and knows just how to interact with her. They help her work through her anxiety. They let her work at her own pace. She understands that the horse can be as anxious as she is and is developing a bond with her horse. We are ecstatic that we finally have found an activity that will let her connect well with something other than the computer.

When I heard about the new restrictions proposed for Hybrid Farm's use of Acton Conservation land I actually wept in despair.

Please consider not only me, but the large number of other special children welcomed by and helped at Hybrid Farm when making a decision about renewing the lease of land to the farm. If you won't consider an expansion of use by Hybrid Farm, what are the issues with at least continuing the lease as it is now? Has there been a change in town policy? Are other town residents complaining? If there are issues, I am sure something can be worked out without such a drastic reduction in the capacity of the farm to provide services to the community. I know I and my family are willing to help out in any way we can.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peggy Wargelin
97 Hillside Ave.
Concord, MA 01742
978-369-1107
zermatt@sprynet.com

Acton Conservation Committee
Acton, MA

41 Harvey St.
Cambridge MA 02140
November 18, 2011

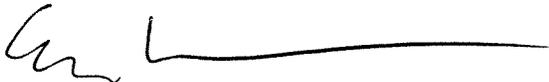
Dear Acton Conservation Committee:

I am writing to ask you to please reconsider your proposal to halve the number of horses that Hybid Farm may allow to graze on Conservation land. My daughter attends The Victor School, and has greatly benefited from her experiences with the horses as part of the school's horseback riding club. As you probably know, contact with animals can have a deeply therapeutic effect, and I believe that this has been true for my daughter in her weekly contact with the horses. She looks forward to it each week and comes home with many stories and with laughter about them. If your proposal goes through, Hybid Farm will no longer be able to offer the school the discounted rates that allow my daughter to participate.

Will you please allow all the Hybid horses to graze, so that the kids who attend The Victor School can continue to have this wonderful benefit?

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Stone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emily Stone

Conservation Commission
Town of Acton

11 Nov 2011

We are writing in strong support of Hybrid Farm and the wonderful horseback riding programs the McConnon's run at their barn. Hybrid Farm provides a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment for a large number of children, preteens, and teens from Acton and the surrounding towns. The programs at Hybrid particularly emphasize consideration of both people and animals and encourage a deeper appreciation of the outdoors and agricultural lifestyles. The owners and instructors constantly reinforce the importance of kindness both to the ponies and to the other children in the program, regardless of their handicaps or difficulties. Our high school aged daughter (a junior) started riding at Hybrid when she was 6 years old (starting on one of their smallest ponies) and she continues to take lessons on their more advanced school horses and volunteer during the summers. The many hours she has spent at the Hybrid barn working with the horses and the other kids have contributed enormously to her happiness and her confidence. Using the skills she's learned at Hybrid, she now also volunteers at Friends for Tomorrow, the therapeutic riding program for handicapped children in Lincoln. In particular she has been working with groups of grade school girls who have learning and socialization difficulties, using collaborative equine care and riding to help them open up and gain confidence before they enter the difficult middle school years.

Hybrid is also quite unique in the area in that it allows children who don't own their own horses to participate in pony club and compete locally and regionally. Unlike high school athletic programs, which by junior year, tend to primarily support the favored few who are good enough to make varsity teams, Hybrid offers everyone a chance to compete at their own level. That is why there are so many kids in the area who have stuck with riding throughout their teen years and continue to come back from college during the summers to visit Hybrid and help out. Therefore we are extremely distressed to learn that the Conservation Commission has indicated that it is not willing to support Hybrid Farm as it has in the past. We can only imagine that the members of the Commission don't realize what a treasure Hybrid is and what an important part it has played in the local community for more than 30 years. We hope that a greater understanding will lead to agreements which will guarantee that Hybrid will continue to be available to the youth of Acton and the surrounding towns for many years to come.

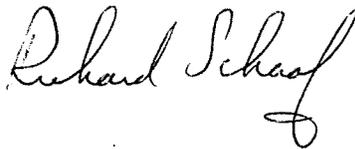


Crystal and Richard Schaaf

583 North Rd

Sudbury MA 01776

978 443 8827



Keith E. Herzog, CPA CFP® CFA

8 Idylwilde Road
Lexington, MA 02421-7602
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November 14, 2011

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

Gentlemen,

RE: Hybid Farm

I have two daughters who participate in Hybid Farm's horsemanship program, and it has come to my attention that the Conservation Commission is contemplating a curtailment of the Farm's use of Conservation Lands. This could have a significant detrimental effect upon the Farm, which could, in turn, result in detriment not only to the horses and ponies which are cared for at the Farm, but it could also be detrimental to the children who participate in the various programs run by Hybid Farm.

I first became aware of Hybid Farm during the spring of 2011 when I was searching for an equestrian program for my two daughters, ages 9 and 8. I made many, many phone calls to various places in and around the Lexington area. Most places did not even return my phone call, and the ones who did, did not want to teach children of such a young age. One place in Lexington was just starting out, and the instructor offered to give riding lessons on an ad-hoc basis, but there was no formal program, no group riding, and no camaraderie with peers.

I finally got a call from Eleazer Davis Farm in Bedford. They said that, while they did not accept beginning riders in my daughters' age group, they highly recommended Hybid Farm's program, as they do teach young beginning riders. When I investigated further, I found that Hybid Farm had a highly organized program that followed a curriculum and developed serious horsemanship skills from the beginner level. Thus, it was a perfect match for my girls.

I had made DOZENS of phone calls before finally contacting Hybid Farm... Hybid Farm was the ONLY program that was working with young, beginning riders. Further, since they owned ample horses, my girls could participate in the programs without our family incurring what can be a very significant financial burden associated with owning a horse or pony. With my oldest daughter starting college in the fall, there was no way I could entertain the prospect of having to buy and care for an animal.

So our introduction to Hybrid Farm was with the summer program during the summer of 2011, and I believe my girls benefitted tremendously. My girls attended four weeks for the entire month of July, and the experience could only have been better had the program run for a full day instead of a half-day. The program taught them not only how to ride, but also how to take care of the animals. That is, it helped them to learn to be responsible for caring for an animal. Through the program, my girls also made friends who share a similar passion for horses. In short, this was the BEST summer experience my girls had ever had, after which they had a very strong desire to continue riding and developing their equestrian skills.

Based on the strength of the summer program, I did not have to make any phone calls to find a riding school my girls could attend during the school year. Hybrid Farm had numerous programs and time slots from which to choose. We chose the 10-month horsemanship program, scheduled to run for the entire academic year, and the girls have enjoyed every minute of it so far. In fact, my 9 year-old says her time at Hybrid Farm is the "highlight of her week."

In summary, then, Hybrid Farm has provided my daughters with a very substantial positive influence in their lives. It is not just about learning how to ride horses. It is also about learning responsibility towards the animals, learning about making a commitment and pursuing something worthwhile, learning about interacting with peers, and learning how to co-exist with nature and to think about something other than themselves. Hybrid Farm is a unique resource with respect to young, new riders, and alternatives are NOT readily available.

Because of these factors, I strongly urge the Conservation Commission for the Town of Acton to at least maintain the present level of access Hybrid Farm has to Conservation properties. Further, I think it would be in the public's best interest to expand the access even further.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter,

Yours very truly,



Keith E. Herzog

To whom it may concern,

Last September my daughter went through a very difficult time in her life. We were concerned and took every step possible to assist and support her as she worked through some issues. One of the things she participated in, as part of her healing, was horseback riding lessons at Rita McConnon's barn. She rode in the snow, the sleet, and the rain. She found companionship and support with these animals and with Rita and her instructor at the barn. She told me later that those times at the barn were what pulled her through and allowed her to handle all the other things she needed to address. It also gave the two of us a chance to grow significantly closer as I participated in one lesson a week with her.

The work and impact that Rita has on the people coming through her barn is incredible. For that reason alone she should have the opportunity to continue her program. As a business owner myself, I am stunned to learn of how much she gives away to multiple causes in the town. From a business perspective, why would the town want to shut off free revenue and business. If anything, you would be wise to promote and advertise what she offers. It is the kind of publicity that promotes the healthy growth of a town.

Warmest regards,

Becky

Becky Bingham, BS, RN,
BCNNeuroSolution Center
www.NeuroSolutionCenter.com
Phone: 978-952-0046
Email: becky@NeuroSolutionCenter.com

Conservation Commission of the Town of Acton
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts 01720

November 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Hybid Farm and the programs they offer to the children of the Acton community as well as the community at large. Hybid has been a large part of my children's lives for the past 18 years beginning with a friendship between my eldest son, Jacob and the McConnon's middle son, Andrew. Jacob would go to their home and play for many hours in the conservation land surrounding their home as well as ride horses and practice "emergency" dismounts.

Eight years ago, our daughter, Michele, expressed an interest in riding horses. I knew that the cost of riding at Hybid was not going to "break the bank" and that Michele would get the love and attention that she deserved thinking it was because we already had a relationship with the McConnon's. What I learned was that the McConnons and all the people that work at Hybid give the love and attention to each child whether they have a previous relationship with them or they are there for the first time. All children are treated with respect and learn to treat others both human and horse with respect. Hybid has been a refuge for our daughter spending many hours cleaning stalls, helping other children learn about horse management, taking care of an animal that doesn't talk back, and being loved and supported by the people that work at Hybid.

On the day of Michele's senior prom, she found out that she was not going to be riding in the limousine that she had paid for because of overbooking. She was going to have to take the bus from the high school, which also meant that she was not going to be able to go to her pre-prom party, there were LOTS of tears shed. Instead, Michele went to Hybid Farm where she was greeted and treated like a princess. Rita had her take her favorite pony out on the Conservation Land and we took her senior prom pictures. The pictures came out beautiful; Michele looked like she was going to find her Prince Charming. If the Conservation Commission is going to prohibit Hybid from using the land around their barn, then I would never have been able to get a beautiful prom picture. Hybid was there for Michele and I want the Hybid I know to be there for many more Michele's to come.

Youth today do not spend much time out of doors and horses are a way to draw the youth into nature. Please consider maintaining the same level of use of the conservation land for Hybid Farm so that the future youths of our community will be able to enjoy the land outside. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Russell
80 Inches Brook Lane
Boxborough, MA 01719

Former Acton resident - 22 yrs.

My 14-year-old daughter was diagnosed with Dyslexia and ADHD six years ago. At that time, the only thing she wanted to was to ride horses. She was so excited when we found Hybrid Farm, recommended by a friend, and she began lessons.

From the very beginning she loved to ride. It gave her the control she needed; the requirement for concentration and focus she needed to practice; and the release of energy needed to combat her ADHD. It was a Godsend to our family.

She still rides at Hybrid and enjoys the lessons, the barn time, and the summer camp weeks that keep her going through the summer months.

The love, trust and caring that comes from the personnel there is priceless! We are a “family” there and I cannot imagine breaking up that family. The girls and boys fall in love with all the horses and treat them well. All this teaches them responsibility, purpose, love of nature, and kindness to others.

And lastly, the great thing about Hybrid Farm is that they are a very “down to earth” type of barn. There are no airs put on or requirements for fancy clothes, boots etc. Their fees are very reasonable so it is much more accessible to all families. They run the barn with fun and love of nature in mind, and are open to all.

Faith H. Bader
7 River St
Concord, MA 01742
978-369-6990

November 14, 2011

To Whom it MAY Concern,

Hybid Farm is like no other place for my daughter and my family. My daughter started riding about 1 & 1/2 years ago at Hybid and in that time I have had the fortune of watching her grow in responsibility and self esteem in a way that is unlike any other activity that she has been involved with. It is amazing to me to watch my child, who has diagnosed anxiety and ADHD, blossom and shine at Hybid. Rita and her staff are ever positive and encouraging; seeing my child for the unique and amazing girl that is inside; recognizing her for her strengths, not defining her by her weakness and struggles. They have provided her with constant opportunities to make independent choices, be responsible, and develop her own love for horseback riding and Hybid. My daughter identifies with the horses that Rita has saved and cared for, bonding with them in a way that I did not know was possible. Hybid Farm is a truly special place for her, a place that she would choose to be daily if that were a possibility. I look forward to her being able to spend the rest of her school age years as part of the Hybid family and it truly concerns me to think of what changes may lie ahead for both Hybid and my child should Rita loose use of the land.

Sincerely,



Karin Castro

Boxborough

November 17, 2011

Dear Acton Conservation Commission,

Words cannot adequately express what Hybrid Farm does for young people, not to mention horses. Years ago, when I first heard about this wonderful farm and camp, I took a drive up Nagog Hill Road to visit. The owner, Rita McConnon, was working in the barn and welcomed me. I spoke with her about my two daughters, who like many young girls, were very interested in riding horses. As our conversation progressed, I mentioned that my children have dealt with divorce, and that it hasn't always been easy for them. Rita was very compassionate listener, and even shared some of her own childhood experiences with me. I will never forget her words: "If you can handle a 600 pound animal, you can handle anything."

I saw the truth and power of those words by observing my children during and after attending Rita's camp. I marveled at the stories that I would hear from my daughters during every car ride home. I would listen to all the work that was involved in caring for the horses. Not one time did either girl complain! In fact, the enthusiasm and love for the horses was all that showed. I even learned all of the cheerful camp songs they learned each day. Somehow, these special horses and this outstanding camp were teaching them responsibility, respect, discipline, caring, hard work – and maybe most important of all, confidence.

As an experienced middle school teacher in an urban public school, I am well aware of what challenges face children today. I see that children are surrounded by technology - spending more time in front of screens than interacting with the outside world; they do not get enough fresh air; they do not exercise their bodies regularly; they do not willingly take on chores and added responsibility. These factors do not create a whole person. It is experiences like those offered at Hybrid Farm that are immeasurably beneficial in developing a young person into a well-rounded adult. There certainly are not enough places in the world that can claim that.

There is not one reasonable argument for reducing Hybrid Farm in any capacity. This is not a factory polluting the air we breathe, nor a place that invites dangerous or suspicious activity. It is a haven – a symbol of what is pure, natural, and good. It stands as a reminder of a time that was much simpler, and even seems to keep young people innocent longer. It is a place that teaches all of us to be better people. Isn't this something we want *more* of, not less?

I have seen conservation committees make misguided decisions in the past. I am hoping that Acton's board is a sensible one. I encourage those who think that minimizing Hybrid Farm is a worthwhile endeavor to spend some time there - to see the magic that happens from learning to handle a 600 pound animal.

Once they do, I am certain that they will change their position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Pittorino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzanne Pittorino

10 Cumberland Road

Belmont, MA 02478

617-484-4744

Kimberly A. McLaughlin
20 Ivy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

November 14, 2011

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

Re: Hybrid Farm, Nagog Hill Road

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my gratitude to Hybrid Farm and Rita-Marie McConnon for the wonderful environment provided to my daughter, Hailey McLaughlin (age 7), a riding enthusiast.

My daughter expressed an interest in riding horses as a preschooler. Through referrals from other parents, I found Hybrid Farm. Hybrid embraced my daughter and fostered her love of horses while reinforcing the care and responsibility necessary to maintain them.

Living in Cambridge, we "commute" weekly to Hybrid Farm. We endure the Route 2 traffic by enjoying our time together, talking about the horses and staff at Hybrid and wondering what the lesson will offer. At the end of each lesson, I struggle to get my daughter to leave the barn - she never wants to leave the horses or the company of the other riders who mentor and support her.

Hailey knows all of the horses by name and is filled with such pride having graduated from lessons on the wonderful pony "Tinkerbell" to lessons on Cody! Hailey always feels safe at the barn and during lessons. The horses are amazingly patient and kind, allowing their riders to grow and build confidence in their riding.

I truly love what Hybrid Farm offers to its riders. Hybrid's riders not only learn skills and technique, but also what is required to maintain and care for a horse. My daughter benefits from the respectful environment that Rita mandates. Riders are respectful of others, they are independent and they are accountable.

I have seen what amazing work is done at Hybrid Farm, both in terms of developing riders as well as rehabilitating wonderful animals. Please allow this work to continue at the level currently provided. To reduce the scale of what Hybrid offers will irreparably change its nurturing environment and will deny too many of the benefits Hybrid offers.

Please contact me if you would like any additional information.

With warm regards,


Kim McLaughlin

**Carla Smith Picariello
56 Powers Road,
Littleton MA 01460**

November 10, 2011

Conservation Commission
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

RE: Hybid Farm

Dear Members of the Conservation Commission,

I am writing this letter in support of Hybid Farm with the hope that they will be able to continue to operate their barn at the capacity that they have been doing so over the many years. This barn provides the surrounding towns (and beyond) with a rare and invaluable service to our children, has a great record for giving back to the community, and is consistent with the ideals of conservation and community preservation.

As a mother and a child psychologist I was so pleased to find a barn like Hybid. My young daughter had begun riding at a local barn in Littleton which, while having a great reputation in teaching children how to ride, offered what I found most barns in the area offered for environment, namely catty, unsupportive, disrespectful, and entitled behavior in many of the riders. I was beside myself that my young daughter's passion for ponies would bring her into close contact with this type of role model. I jumped at the opportunity to tour the Hybid Farm as I heard that they had a different focus in their barn, more on horse care and management rather than on competitive showmanship. My ten year old daughter is now beginning her fourth year at Hybid Farm. We had no idea that Hybid would mean more to us than being an excellent barn to learn riding skills and horse care/management. It is a place where I feel good about leaving my daughter because the environment is so positive, healthy, and teaches excellent values. I look at the girls of all ages working together, learning, and teaching in the barn and walk away each day feeling that it is one of the last wholesome, safe havens left on earth for my daughter. I have watched her blossom in her confidence, generosity, and kindness due in large part by watching the examples of Rita and her instructors, and experiencing the

nurturing environment that Rita has created and maintained (and insists upon) in the barn. The barn is my daughter's "happy place", a place where she can relax and be herself while learning all the valuable life lessons that are needed when taking on the responsibility of caring for another creature.

I love that Hybrid is so supportive of its local community and also of the larger community of children who are in need – financial need, those with emotional issues, or those from difficult life situations. Hybrid is similarly committed to horse rescue and has saved ponies that even the vet felt were lost causes. Rita clearly cares deeply about each of her students and her ponies, and uses her business to touch each of their lives in a meaningful and positive way. Her barn is really about giving back and helping others and it would be such a loss for the surrounding communities if Hybrid was not allowed to continue to do so. I do not know of another barn that offers the scholarships, lessons to teenagers placed in residential care, or lessons to children with emotional/behavioral issues in this area, and more importantly at a rate that is affordable to the typical family.

From a conservation point of view, it is very sad that with the increasing sprawl and development, farms, barns, and agricultural animals are seen more rarely in this area. I find it refreshing when walking along or driving through the Minuteman National Park to come across fenced in sheep or the cows/bulls kept in pens along the road. Hybrid's horses add to the ambience of this area and are the epitome of what we are trying to preserve – a glimpse back in time to an earlier Acton. I cannot fathom why in this day of dwindling agriculture, the conservation committee would do anything to decrease the public's access to view agricultural animals. Rita has made her leased fields accessible to the public, and I cannot imagine a more enjoyable walk alone or with one's family than one that includes bringing along an apple or a carrot to feed one of her ponies.

Sincerely,



Carla Smith Picariello

November, 2011

Dear Conservation Commission,

Twenty-six years ago, our then eleven year old daughter, Johanna boarded her first pony at Hybid Farm. She was there every day after school and up early on Saturday and Sunday mornings to groom, ride and muck out stalls. Eventually, a horse came her way when she outgrew her pony and Johanna continued to work hard at the barn throughout her High School years.

Johanna's second home was Hybid Farm. We knew she was safe and active, spending her days in productive and hard work under the guidance of Rita McConnon. Johanna, now thirty-seven, is a woman with a strong work ethic and high moral character, a responsible person who loves animals and the outdoors. Knowing Johanna so well, Rita hired Johanna last year to be her barn manager. We are so incredibly proud of our daughter!

It has come to our attention that the Conservation Commission is reluctant to continue leasing a portion of its land surrounding Hybid Farm to Rita McConnon. This will have a huge impact on Rita's livelihood and the positive impact that she has on so many, many young people. Would our daughter be the person she is now without her history at the barn?

Johanna, too, will most likely lose her job because of the cutbacks that you are proposing to Rita. And not only will that have a huge impact upon our daughter, just think of the countless other people who work at the barn who will either lose their jobs or be forced to cut back or seek work in other towns. Think of the riding instructors, veterinarians, ferriers, the grain mill, the counselors, not to mention Rita's own livelihood. Do you really want all of these people to be so profoundly effected by your decision? We certainly hope not and are asking that you will seriously consider permitting Rita and the other people connected to Hybid Farm to continue their fabulous work at the same level in which they perform their work every day. Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Molly and Charlie Stone
Long Ridge Road
Acton

November 10, 2011

Dear Members of the Acton Conservation Commission,

About eight years ago, when our daughters were in third and first grade, we found our way to Hybid Farm. Our older daughter had been asking – well, begging – for riding lessons on and off for a couple of years and, realizing that her interest was serious, we set about finding a place where the girls could take some lessons without having to commit to owning a horse or spending our weekends - and paychecks - at horse shows. It was clear to us from the first time we visited Hybid Farm that we had found a truly special place. As it turned out, both of our girls love to ride horses, and they have certainly learned to do that well at Hybid. But Hybid Farm, with Rita and her dedicated team of instructors, has become so much more than a place to go once a week for a riding lesson.

Hybid is our children's second home, and Rita their second mom. And there is no one we would rather share them with! Rita has incredibly high standards for behavior. She expects her kids to be polite, to treat each other and their ponies with respect, and to work as hard as they can both during their lesson and in any task they tackle in the barn. And Rita models politeness, respect, and hard work every single day. Every child who crosses the threshold of Hybid Farm is made to feel like she or he is the most important person in the world – and who wouldn't want to please someone who treats you so lovingly?

Besides riding the ponies, Rita allows the kids to help muck stalls, sweep the barn, feed, spread hay, help with girl scout programs and birthday parties, and volunteer as camp counselors. We have never seen a harder working bunch of kids, and they do it all with a grin on their face and hay in their hair. Hybid parents often joke that they wish their kids would keep their rooms as clean as they keep the stalls!

Our daughters are in High School now and they have less time to spend at the barn, but it's still the first place they think of going when they are unexpectedly free. They go for Rita's loving hug, to hug the ponies they think of as their own, to get dirty, to smell like horse poop,

and to hang out with other kids who love Hybid as much as they do. They've made lifelong friends from Acton and many neighboring towns, and have gone from being campers to counselors and students to teachers. There are so many other things teenagers do to have fun, including drinking and drugs, but they would never do anything to disappoint Rita or break her trust. As parents, we are grateful beyond words for Rita and everything Hybid Farm has to offer. We can't imagine a better place for our kids to spend their time.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jack

Sarah and Jack Dawley

5 Huron Road

Acton, MA

Conservation Commission of the Town of Acton

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to let you know how much the Hybrid Farm has meant to my children, Lianne and Courtney. Lianne is 9 years old, and has found a better sense of self-esteem since she has been coming to the Hybrid Farm for her horse riding camp and lessons. She has set out to be a camp counselor, and for her, this is a big goal. She just gave a speech at school last week and part of that speech involved her experience at Hybrid Farm and how it has made her strive for helping others. My kids live with me in Ashland, and their father in Lexington comes all the way to Ashland every Tuesday to bring them all the way back to Acton to come to the Hybrid Farm. My daughter Courtney also loves the horses, and both of them find this is their main out of school activity.

Please, I most humbly request that you can allow the Hybrid Farm to keep its grazing and activities going, for the children and for the sake of the horses. The horses help those children that may not get help otherwise. This relationship is so important. And the thought of animals that would have to be moved, or worse, for the sake of political reasons is heartbreaking. Please understand that abandoned and abused horses need a home and people to love them, and that children learn and thrive here. Please don't take away the magic that happens here and the wonderful family that is Hybrid Farm.

Sincerely,

Trish Herzog

5 Taggart Court
Ashland, MA 01721
508-641-2556

Trish Herzog, RN-BC, CCM,
CGCM Guided Care Nurse
Case Management Program
Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates- Wellesley Site 230
Worcester Street
Wellesley, MA 02481

Alison Dana
28 Ledge Road
Sudbury, MA
01776

Conservation Commission
Town of Acton
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Members of the Conservation Commission,

I am writing to you to encourage the continued use of conservation land by Hybrid Farm for riding lessons, grazing horses, and trail rides. My fifteen year old daughter was first introduced to Hybrid as a third grader when her girl scout troop visited the barn and had the opportunity to learn about the horses and their care. Hybrid has been a special place that she looks forward to going to ever since that first visit.

Hybrid is not an exclusive, show-oriented barn but rather a place that is all about caring for animals that may have no other place to go as well as a place to foster a sense of independence and self-esteem in the children who ride there. In fact, Hybrid welcomes children who may struggle in other settings. I know this first-hand as my child has many social and emotional challenges and Hybrid has been a welcoming place where she has found acceptance and support and has had the opportunity to grow and mature socially as a result of the inclusive environment. All riders of all abilities are welcome at Hybrid and this makes it a very unique place.

One of the things we also value about Hybrid is that it is a place where neglected animals are rehabilitated and cared for by the riders. The riders develop a very special relationship with many of the horses that Rita has rescued over the years and learn an important life lesson that animals are not a disposable commodity, but a life that should be respected and loved.

Now that she is a teenager, my daughter regularly helps out with birthday parties and Girl Scout visits, including trail rides. Both of these activities have taught her how to be a role model to younger children and enabled her to share her love of the Hybrid horses as well.

The summer camp program at Hybrid is unique as well. The counselors are teenagers and they provide great role models for the children who participate. My daughter was a camper for many years and this summer had the opportunity to be a counselor. She learned so much about mentoring younger children and teaching them to respect and care for the horses as she does.

Rita McConnon runs a truly unique program at Hybrid and does so with the utmost respect for the animals and the riders. The barn is a well cared for historic structure and the grounds and animals are well maintained all year long. I believe strongly that limiting the size and scope of the Hybrid Farm riding program would negatively impact innumerable children, families and animals and create a significant loss for the town of Acton.

I hope you will consider these comments in making your decision.

Respectfully,

Alison Dana

November 13, 2011

To whom this may concern:

I felt compelled to write this letter, to let you know what Hybid Farm means to me as a mother whose daughter has ridden at Hybid farm for 10 years.

Right before my daughters Meredith's 5th birthday, she expressed an interest in having a pony party. I wasn't sure this would be the most appropriate because of her young age but decided if we found the right place, we would. Living in Bedford at the time, I started looking around and found Hybid Farm in Acton. I called and spoke with Rita on the phone and arranged a visit. After only a few minutes with Rita, I realized this was not only the perfect place to have her party but for Meredith to actually begin riding.

Meredith showed up to her party in her riding gear: pair of pink cow girl's boots, pink cow girl hat, pink vest and of course, a smile ear to ear. Rita appropriately nicknamed her "Pink Boots". A name she still cherishes today. Looking back now, this party was such a monumental event in Meredith's life as well as mine.

As a parent, you always want your child to find their passion in life. Meredith has found hers in taking care of horses as well as riding them. Rita has always stressed that taking care of the horse and keeping them happy is always the number one part of being an equestrian. The riding piece is secondary. You teach your child many things at home but how nice is it when they are off having fun doing something they love, and those same traits are being re-enforced: responsibility, accountability, respect and compassion.

The summer riding program also re-enforced these traits. When Meredith went to her first summer camp at the age of 7, she was asking Rita when she could become a camp counselor. It was a long 5 years until she turned 12 but I believe the trait of "patience" was also brought into the mix. Not only waiting to become a counselor but when working with the younger girls while being a counselor.

For Meredith's 12th Birthday, we actually purchased a horse she had been riding, Arrow, from Rita. Once again, a moment at Hybid I will cherish forever. A dream came true for Meredith along with many wonderful memories that go along with owning your own horse. This moment made possible by Rita and Hybid Farm.

Another opportunity came our way while at Hybid farm; The United States Pony Club membership. Until this point, you needed to own your own horse to be a member of Pony Club. Hybid farm was granted to ability to become a Pony Club Riding center. The girls could use Hybid horses to master there horse knowledge and riding ability without having to own their own horse. My daughter has gone to Pony Club Nationals twice for the Central New England Quiz team twice which test your knowledge of all aspects of riding, and caring for your horse. The most recent was in July in Lexington, Kentucky at the Kentucky Horse Park where her team placed 1st, nationally! This team was made up of four girls, three of which were from Hybid Farm. Five other girls from Hybid Riding Center also went to compete on other teams at the event. Again, all this was made possible because the girls are a part of Hybid Farm Pony Club Riding Center. The same Hybid Farm that leases conservation land from the Town of Acton. Let's celebrate this!

Lastly, I would like to touch upon the friendships both Meredith and I have made over the 10 years but more so Meredith's. Now living in Littleton, a much smaller community than Acton, she has friends from all over the area: Acton, Concord, Wayland, Lexington, Bedford, Millbury and the list goes on. She truly has lifelong friends because of Hybid Farm.

Again, Let us celebrate the good that Hybid Farm brings to the community!

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Long

18 Whitetail Way

Littleton, MA 01460



Pink Boots 5th Birthday 2001



Pony Club National Champions 2011



There is no other Place!

November, 13, 2011

Dear Members of the Conservation Commission of Acton,

I am taking this time to write to you on behalf of Hybrid Farm, their horses, my daughter and all the families who have been so very lucky to find this extraordinary place.

My now 9 year old daughter, Ava has been riding at Hybrid for two years. She fell so deeply in love with her pony that when his life was threatened with Pneumonia this past year, she actually could not go to summer camp she was so afraid that he might die. I actually believe that he would have had he been at any other stable. In response to this at their last horse show the children held a bake sale, raising money to help defray some of the expense of the vet bills.

On the surface this would appear to be just another fund raiser, but what it teaches the children is so much more. From this they will learn that they too can make a difference in the world around them, that community matters and they can be empowered to make a difference in a life other than their own.

Last November when my husband lost his job, and we could no longer afford my daughters lessons, Rita's response was so compassionate it made me cry. She said "that although they do need to feed the horses, hybrid is about the children, and told me we could work it out later." Rita and her staff see the big picture, they have built a place that is about compassion, kindness, and responsibility to your fellow creatures and each other, I am sure you would all agree these are qualities we all hope for in our children.

In general Horsemanship is an elitist sport, this is not just another stable, where only those that can afford to ride will be lucky enough to do so. Hybrid farm takes that out of the equation, and are able to do so mostly because they have access to the conservation land for their horses to graze, and do not own a large chunk of land outright.

Please see the bigger picture for our children. Practice the qualities that our children are learning at this amazing barn, love, compassion, community and responsibility to our fellow human beings. You too can make a difference in someones life by continuing to let the horses have use of the towns land.

There is no other barn like this that I have found that is truly about the children and the horses that touch their lives.

Sincerely yours,

Amy Oliver
Stoneham Mass.

November 15, 2011

To the Conservation Commission of Acton,

I am writing for Rita McConnon and my daughter to keep Hybid Farm running at it's fullest potential using the land and trails.

I do not know a thing about horses, but my daughter (7 yrs old) surely could teach you a few things. I listen to her come home after her lessons just beaming about the pony she rode, the skills she learned, new people she met, and the work she did for her pony.

My daughter is riding under the scholarship program for Military families. Rita allows her to ride free of charge because of my service in the United States Army National Guard. This has been a tremendous gift for my daughter. I would not be able to provide this activity for my child not having this type of scholarship. Rita's kind support for military families, (under the scholarship program), will no longer be provided with fewer horses. This would be devastating for other families that fit this criteria and their children. I would not want to break the bad news to my daughter who absolutely idolizes Hybid Farm.

I believe seeing horses use conservation land is wonderful. I cannot think of a better way for the land to be used, and for the children to experience nature on horseback through trails. Surely something not everyone has experienced.

Please grant Rita McConnon access to the conservation land and trails. This would benefit not only her horses, but many families that are part of the magic at Hybid Farm.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "L".

MSG Tracy Lewis

Army National Guard

Gardner, Mass.

To Whom It May Concern,

The property at Hybid Farm has historically been a horse farm. The barn and home on the property are estimated to have been built in 1779! In a town where historical beauty and preservation are vital, how can we think to limit the historically accurate nature of this Acton landmark. Hybid Farm has always had horses. It's historic barn is huge, and it's many horses are part of it's historic features. But Hybid's history is not it's best feature. Hybid Farm, run by it's owners, Wick and Rita McConnon, are a boon to the Acton community. It is a fun and happy place for children and Adults, where people are taught to work hard, serve one another and build lasting relationships. My children have been riding at Hybid farm for nearly ten years. I can testify, that Hybid is a place that is worthwhile and wonderful in the lives of all who have the opportunity to spend their time there.

Sincerely,

Marlain Beaudette

415 Blossom St.

Fitchburg, MA 01420

homesmiles@gmail.com

978-956-0602

November 19, 2011

Dear Conservation Commission
of the Town of Acton,

I am writing to let you know how much Hybrid Farm has meant to my daughter Hallie.

On the recommendation of Hallie's first riding instructor, we brought her to Hybrid Farm when she was in the fourth grade. It was love at first sight! She is now 12 and has been taking lessons, attending camps, and participating in horse shows ever since.

She is forever trying to think of ways she can spend more time at Hybrid. Hallie is now old enough to be a counselor in training and she is looking forward to doing that this next summer.

over -

Hallie plays soccer for school,
but she only "walks" out to the field.
When she arrives at Hybrid for
her lesson she "runs" out of
the car. She looks for Rita
to give her a hug and then is
off to the park.

Rita, the counselors, the horses and
new friends make me magic
for my daughter and a love
for her as well! Hybrid is
a special part of her life and
we are thankful for it.

Best regards,
Eric + Pam Nelson
158 Cambridge Tripke
Concord, MA

Acton Conservation Commission

November 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Rita McConnon and her request to continue to maintain her license for the use of town conservation land to graze her horses. Rita and Hybid farm provide a vital service to the youth of our community which will be endangered if she loses the ability to graze her horses on our town land.

My daughter, Catherine, has ridden at Hybid farm for years and has not only learned basic horsemanship there, but has learned responsibility, compassion, and a healthy respect for the environment. Over the past year, Catherine has been fortunate enough to work with a horse that Rita rescued from an abusive situation. The horse (Diamond) had been kept in a stall for years without appropriate exercise or the ability to roam freely. When Diamond came to Hybid, he was weak, undernourished, and skittish. Through the work my daughter and others have done with him, he is again a thriving, healthy horse.

If Rita loses her ability to graze on town land, she also loses the ability to save horses like Diamond, and to offer teens like my daughter the amazing experience of helping an animal to recover from such a terrible situation. I think that this would be tragic, not only for the horses, and the children, but for our town.

Thank you for your time,

Heather N. Allen
17 Agawam Road
Acton

Acton Conservation Commission

November 19, 2011

427 Main Street

Acton, MA 01720

We am writing to express our utmost support of Hybid Farm and our great concern about the potential decision to require Hybid to reduce the number of horses it is allowed to keep on the property. We have known the McConnon family for over 8 years, and our daughter has been riding at Hybid since she was 7 yrs old. Our daughter has spent countless hours over the years riding, caring for horses, teaching other children, caring for the land, learning about horse management, etc. Through its riding programs and thoughtful, considerate leadership, Hybid has provided our daughter with an opportunity to learn horsemanship, but more importantly, Hybid has enabled our daughter to develop a strong sense of confidence, responsibility and deep friendships. We can think of no alternative use for this land that would provide the same benefits to the children and families in the area. As a matter of fact, we would be very interested to learn the reason behind this decision and the benefits that are expected to be derived. We would appreciate it if the Acton Conservation Commission would carefully consider the ramifications of this decision as many children will no longer have the opportunity to have the important experiences like our daughter, and many of the horses will likely end up in situations inferior to the wonderful care they currently receive at Hybid. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments

Regards,



Christine & Dan Kielar

Dan and Christine Kielar

185 Hunters Ridge Road

Concord, MA

978-369-1072

11-19-11

To whom it may concern;
I have been informed
that an area of Conservation
land that has been available
for young people who devote
much time to horses and their
care is in danger of being
banned from their use. I
only know that it is a positive
influence on these young
people. I have a granddaughter
in this group. As I hear and
read of all the negative
attractions they face in their
daily lives I implore you to
help in keeping this option

open
Just a note...
Sincerely Hilda Kerne (over)

Missing
page 2

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to let my feelings be known about Hybid Farms, my daughter Kristina has been riding at this barn since she was 7 years old she is now 16. Without this facility where nothing else matters but the horses, I don't think she would be where she is today. She has learned so much about responsibility, respect, dedication, loyalty and most of all a positive work ethic that most kids her age these days are lacking. My daughter Kristina spends as much time as possible there, she has learned that if you work for things that good things come from it. For the past three years, she has done feeding on Sunday morning and evening. She has recruited me to help her with this obligation and it gives me some precious time to spend with her, where else can a father find time to be with a 16 year old. All the girls at this barn all have incredible attitudes and work ethic, as I said before it is all about the horses, not about them and there problems. They go there to relax, enjoy, reflect and to be with each other and there ponies. Shutting the doors to Hybid Farms would be by far the worst mistake that this committee could make, the owners do a lot in the town and they respect what they have and are willing to share with everyone.

Jeff Nelson
—

November 18, 2011

To: Conservation Commission of the Town of Acton

I am writing in regards to Hybid Farm. I want to let you know that my daughter has been riding and volunteering because of the love she has for that farm. For the past eight years it has develop her into a wonderful young lady. Hybid has giving her the passion and compassion she has for the horses as well as the owner's always teaching these young kids about life. Instead of being places where drugs and other bad influences are I know that she is safe and always learning and giving to those wonderful animals. In return she gets love and peace from them.

I feel as an Acton tax payer I should have some input on this decision since it does impact my family. If you really wants the best for the kids of Acton and surrounding towns you should considered the outcome of your decision not only for the kids, families, the farm but the horses as well. They take abused horses and the kids give these animals a second chance. Hybid Farm has so much to offer Acton and other communities with all the programs they have for our children.

With that said you would be making a very big mistake not renewing Hybid Farm's license to use the conservation land.

Sincerely

Marina E. Nelson

7 Pope road
Acton MA, 01720

①

MAYNARD MA 11/19/11

To:
ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN of Acton
Acton MA 01720

I can not speak
OR write a very fluently english; but knowing
that you will not allow to the students of Hybrid
Farm Inc, to have any lessons taking place on
conservation land, that it could not offer
trail rides for the students, "GOD" has given me
inspiration and courage to write this letter
to you, in the name of my wife Ernestina
PAGGAGA and I, accordingly to the best of my
ability in the knowledge of the english language
and doing this, it is precisely the result of
the tremendous impact that our hearts have
received, with your intentions or determinations
you want to take. - Hybrid Farm Inc has
been for several long years a place where
hundreds of children are coming to fulfill
their dreams, learning and loving riding
horses, and directed by professional people

(3)

and mostly better to say under immensely care of the Hybrid family, Well Known family for helping the community, offering scholarships, and given also more and more benefits for the town of Hector and others. -

Your intentions or determinations tend to diminished the spirit, dreams and total happiness of a group of talented young kids that are living part of their lives dedicated to take care and love a horse, that is helping them in the beautiful horsing career. -

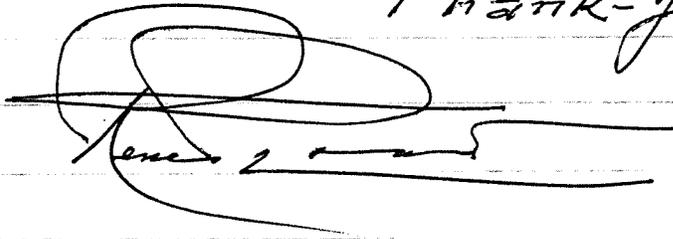
One of this talented young people, is our granddaughter Kristina Nelson; now, you can imagine or to think how our hearts are destroyed with your intentions. We have seen our lovely girl growing up attached to the horses we have seen her riding those horses with elegance and looking very proud with great dedication for what she really loves: "Horses"

I want with all my respect to ask you: Do you think that can be possible for you, to take away the dreams, the day or every day of happiness of this young people?

IN THE NAME OF "GOD" please! do not do it

Please! Change your intentions, change anything that can be contrary to the happiness of this lovely young people, we know, you will; we know that our "GOD" is going to illuminate the right way to follow, and at the end you will feel the enormous peace of mind, and great satisfaction in your heart, and when this happen I OR we shall see a big, big smile and tears of happiness from our granddaughter we love so much.-

Thank-you



x Ernestina Pagoaga

René & Tina Pagoaga
15 Summerhill Glen
Maynard, MA 01754

TEL. 978 897 0134

**Alexander Tedeschi
1731 Lowell Road
Concord, MA 01742**

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

Dear Sirs/Madames:

I am writing about Hybrid Farm on Nagog Hill Road.

Our daughters have been going there for six years, and it has really changed their lives. The staff there has an amazing way of interacting with all kinds of kids, no matter what their situation or background. They are excellent teachers, and more than just horseback riding they teach how to take care of horses. I don't know how, but everyone just feels comfortable and at home whenever they're there. Rita has a way with every kid she works with, and no matter who you talk to you will find they are part of a very close-knit community.

Hybrid Farm contributes in so many ways – offering lower fees for kids with problems, rescuing ponies and horses that have been abandoned and abused, and having everyone working together simply to be close and have fun. It's really a blessing for the whole community, and it would be a tragedy to many people if the farm was restricted in its ability to operate and serve the public.

I hope you all understand how important Hybrid Farm is to us and the entire community.

Sincerely,



Alexander Tedeschi

14 November 2011

Conservation Commission
Town of Acton:

I am writing to support the continued use of Acton town lands by Hybid Farm. Hybid Farm runs wonderful programs for children, during the year and all summer. My daughter has attended summer camp at Hybid several times, and has completely loved it each time. The staff is unusually warm and caring, and the horses and ponies are obviously well cared for. We have tried other area horse camps in the area and they couldn't compare to the high quality programs offered at Hybid. Most noticeable to me is how calm and relaxed all of the horses and ponies at Hybid always seem to be, which to me is a clear signal that they receive excellent care and are surrounded by people who are calm, confident, and skilled in handling horses. I have always felt my daughter is very safe at Hybid, while at the same time she has learned more and gained more skills at Hybid than in other programs at other farms.

Please allow Rita McConnon to continue using town lands for Hybid Farm's animals and programs. If Rita has to reduce the farm's capacity, it will be a loss for the animals currently receiving excellent care, and more importantly a loss of a very high-quality program for our area's children. In fact, as I think about the different summer programs my daughter has attended over the years, her weeks at Hybid Farm stand out as favorites, due to the warm, caring environment Rita has created at the farm, and the joy that my daughter has gotten from being around horses and ponies in such a safe, healthy environment.

We love Hybid Farm!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Umbrell".

Karen Umbrell
10 Dettling Road
Maynard, MA 01754

31 Aaron Way,

Carlisle, Ma. 01741

November 15th, 2011.

To the Conservation Commission of the Town of Acton,

I am writing to you as a parent of a 9 year old girl who has attended Hybrid Farm since she was 5.

When we first started riding there, it was driven by our daughter, Lola's, love of horses, which many young girls have. As the years went on, we could see clearly that there were many other benefits from being around horses, other than riding alone. I know of no other pastime that gives the children the confidence that the horses do. As a small child, to know that you can control and master a horse, many times your size, gives the children tremendous confidence and belief in themselves. They learn respect for the horses and that these amazing animals each have a unique character and no matter how a child is feeling on any particular day, there is a horse or pony that they can relate to and feel seen and needed. These are such important experiences for any child. So many sports are ego based and focus on an end goal and the children are not taught to care on such a deep level for what they are doing as they are when interacting with a horse.

Hybrid farm is a magical place! I have visited most of the other stables in the area, and there is no where else like Hybrid Farm! It is not only the location and the Horses, but the devotion of Rita, the owner to the development of each and every child as a person. A couple of years ago, Lola was going through a hard time at school - she was being bullied. Hybrid was the single most important thing that kept her confidence up during that ordeal. When we moved school a year ago, Rita was very sensitive to Lola's needs and kept her experience at Hybrid stable as there were so many other changes going on. This to a young child, makes the world of difference. It is a safe place for my daughter where she is loved and people really believe in her! I cannot put a value on this as it is priceless!

If Hybrid Farm were put in a position where they had to reduce the amount of Horses, it would be devastating for the children. How do you tell them that all the love, time and effort they have put into the Horses, especially the ones that are rescued and they help nurse back to health, was

Not enough? It would make my job as a parent more difficult too in terms of teaching my child to care for the least amongst us, which is what they learn with the rescued ponies.

Let me finish by saying that Hybrid Farm is a fantastic addition to our Community and should be fully supported in every way. I am appealing to you as a parent to support the Farm completely!

Many thanks for taking the time to read this letter,

Sincerely,



Alison Storry

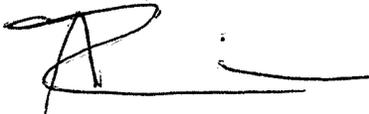
Concord, Nov 21, 2011

To the Conservation Commission of Acton

My daughter Marije van der Hilst started to ride at Hybrid Farm last year. From age 9 she had been riding at different farms in the area, but was always put off after a while because of the pressure to perform dangerous exercises with the horse before she felt ready to do so. At Hybrid she has found a very friendly environment where she is never pressured to perform beyond what she feels comfortable to do. She is now 17 years old, and I am sorry that we only found this farm last year.

It is my understanding that the Town of Acton wants to close Hybrid. I am not familiar with all the details of the reason, but I understand that it has to do with the fact that there would be too many horses kept close to Conservation Land. Personally I feel the whole setting of the antique barn and house plus the many horses provides a perfect New England historic atmosphere. I was taken by the setting the first few times when I brought my daughter to ride there. I sincerely hope the Town of Acton will let Ms Rita McConnon continue operating her farm in the current state, able to provide employment for people, joy for many riders, and perform welfare programs for many disadvantaged kids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alet Zielhuis', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alet Zielhuis
196 Belknap St
Concord, MA

November 16, 2014

Dear Rita,

It would be an utter shame if the wonderful riding program at Hybrid Farm were curtailed. Our daughter Clairenne had a magical first horse camp experience at your farm, and learned many valuable lessons beyond how to ride. Your counselors taught the children to love and respect animals, to be responsible and polite, to take care of each other and their environment. I do sincerely hope that Hybrid Farm will continue to thrive as an equestrian facility that values all the things that are important in life - which is rare! Best wishes,

Jana Wilson
47 York St Winchester, 01890

11/16/11

Conservation Committee
Acton, MA

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I wanted to write you to support hybrid farms and the wonderful environment it provides for children. As a parent of 4 children, all of whom have benefited from riding, I would like to express what an asset it is to Acton.

Hybrid provides good, wholesome alternative to computers and the web. It is a place that hundreds of kids have met over the years to ride, learn, socialize, and dream about something that is very positive to life. ~~long~~

Please don't allow this to decline. If you would like to talk personally call me at 781-956-3002

John White

Dear Acton Conservation Commission,

I am writing to support my sister, Kristina, who has been a rider at Hybid Farm since she was 8 years old. Riding and working there have dramatically changed her life in a positive way. In befriending the horses, and learning the art of riding, as well as helping others as a counselor for camps, she has increased her self-esteem and confidence. Unfortunately, she has a very difficult home life and is very isolated with the exception of her time at the barn. In a world of overall emotional unpredictability, harsh words, and fighting, the horses provide much needed stability and love. Many times during school vacations or over the summer, her days spent at the barn are her only time out of the house and away from the troubles at home. To Kristina, riding and working at Hybid is the only trustworthy source of mental health care that she receives. .

I understand that there may have to be big changes to Hybid, as the conservation land near the property might not be able to be used by the farm any more. If Hybid's programs were cut, it could have dramatically negative results for my sister. Losing many of the horses she cares about might overwhelm her, along with the fact that she would be losing her Sunday feeding job, which allows her to continue to go to the barn even when her parents were unable to afford the cost. Without being able to work at the camp during the summers and vacations, Kristina would have no outlet for her emotions, or rest from the constant tension of her home life. I am afraid that without the safe container that Hybid has provided for her for years, with the relationships she has built with both horses and staff, she could become overwhelmed by depression and could turn towards risky behaviors. As of now, with the therapeutic environment of the barn she is able to keep in high spirits in spite of the obstacles she faces at home on a daily basis.

I am strongly in support of Hybid and those at the commission coming up with some sort of compromise, so that Hybid can remain the safe, lively, and therapeutic community that it has been for my sister, and for probably many more youth who are in great need of emotional stability. .

Best Regards,

Sam Nelson

7 POPE ROAD
ACTON MA, 01720

Joan and Andy Miller
7 Redwood Road
Acton, MA 01720

November 19, 2011

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

RE: Hybid Farm

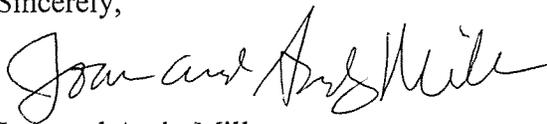
Dear Commission Members:

We are writing in support of a continuation of the Conservation Commission's Lease Agreement with Hybid Farm located on Nagog Hill Road.

Hybid Farm has been a favorite destination for our daughter. It is a special place that she can visit after school and on weekends, whether riding or taking care of the horses. We are fortunate to have Hybid Farm, as it provides a safe, healthy environment, not only for the learning of riding and horsemanship, but also for the teaching and learning of responsibility.

These are benefits not only for us personally, but for the entire community. We hope you consider Hybid Farm's request favorably. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan and Andy Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joan and Andy Miller

Zamaneh Mikhak
22 Eliot Road
Lexington, MA. 02421

11/20/11

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Acton

Dear Conservation Commission Members,
I would like to express my strongest support for Ms. Rita McConnon and her horseback riding farm, Hybid Farm, Inc.

My daughter, Hannah Resnick, who is a junior in high school, has been riding at Hybid Farm since she was 7 years old. Hybid Farm is very much like a second home to her. Rita has provided the most loving environment at Hybid Farm for my daughter and all other campers and counselors throughout all these years. At Hybid Farm, kids learn to treat each other kindly and respect one another, values that help them grow into responsible and secure adults.

We live in Lexington and make a trip to Acton at least once a week for my daughter's lessons at Hybid Farm. During these trips, we visit many businesses in Acton, including Donelan's supermarket, Pegasus Tack Shop, Subway, D'Angelos, Dunkin Donut, Starbucks and Acton House of Pizza. Our trips to Acton do not just bring business to Hybid Farm but also bring business to Acton as a whole.

I sincerely hope that the Conservation Commission of the Town of Acton supports Rita McConnon and her small business, Hybid Farm, Inc.

Sincerely,

Zamaneh Mikhak

Nov. 17, 2011

To the Conservation Commission of the Town of Acton,

I am the parent of an 8-year old girl who rides weekly at Hybrid Farm in Acton, Mass. Hybrid is a magical place for my daughter and for many other local children and teens.

The love and care these young people show for the horses and ponies is very touching to witness. The children and teens have great empathy for the ponies who have experienced unfortunate pasts. Many of the riders are at a time in their young lives when they are not very willing to express heartfelt compassion to any creature, but these expressions flow freely on a daily basis at Hybrid.

When a child realizes that the pony upon which she is sitting was neglected or even abused by a previous owner, what child feels a great sense of humanitarianism as she takes on the responsibility of caring for that pony. The children experience, often for the first time in their lives, a situation of helping a creature less fortunate than themselves. I dare argue that the environment at Hybrid Farm just might foster a generation of compassionate, caring adults who consider the fact

what not everyone is born with the privileges that many of us in the Acton, Carlisle, and Concord areas take for granted.

We adults have a responsibility to support institutions, like Hybrid, that foster such positive environments for the youth of our community. In the absence of buildings and malls, away from the normal pressures and stresses that our teenagers normally endure, looking across the open conservation land that is Acton, we have an obligation and an opportunity to show our young people that we too value the rescuing of animals; that it is never too late to have a fresh start in life; that there is hope in even the seemingly most hopeless of cases. Through the unique offerings at Hybrid that is what our children are learning, without the use of computers or books or chalkboards or iPads or cellphones. Just open land, a welcoming barn, and a group of very special horses and ponies.

Sincerely
Christine C. McCormack
170 School St., Carlisle, MA 01741