

# Morrison Farm Committee Presentation to Community Preservation Committee



January 16, 2014



# Overview of Morrison Farm

- 32+ acres acquired by two Town Meeting votes in 1997 for \$1.615 million
- Town took possession of the property around 2003
- Several committees have studied and reported
- We embrace previous efforts and continue to build on that earlier work

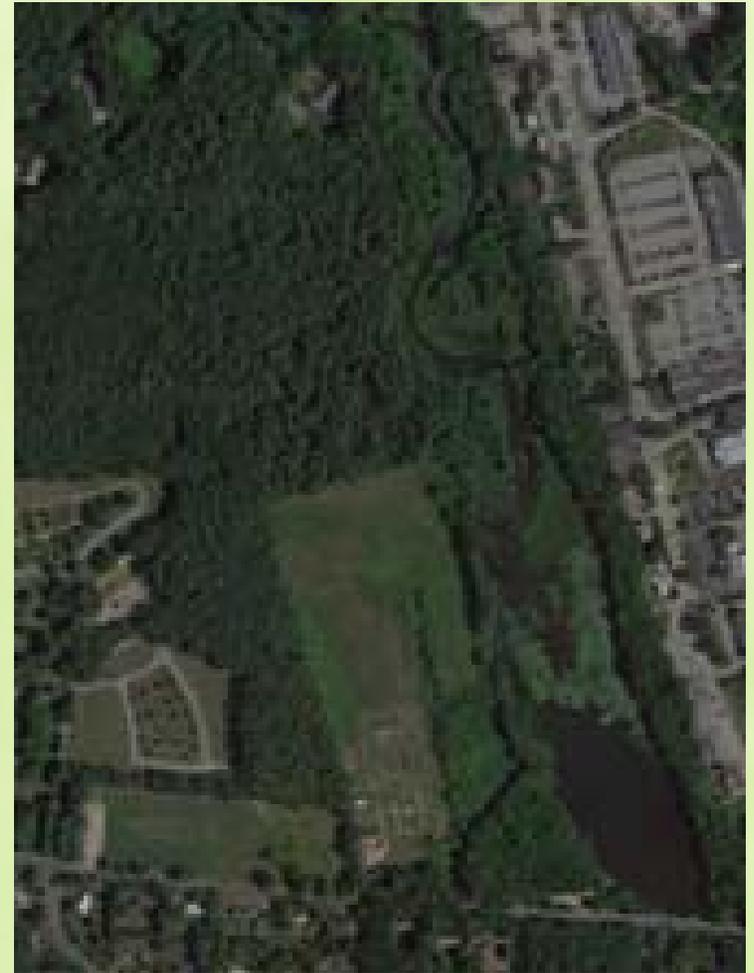


# Overview of Morrison Farm

- Existing committee meeting since June
  - Committee includes Charlie Aaronson, Mary Ann Ashton, Leanne Baxter, Jon Benson, Ann Chang, Kitty Cunkelman, Peter Grover, Andy Magee, Bill Mullin, Doug Tindal
- Offered 6 community walks through the fall to gather feedback
- Met with neighbors and stakeholders to elicit opinions
- Feedback and deliberations guided our decisions about this year's request

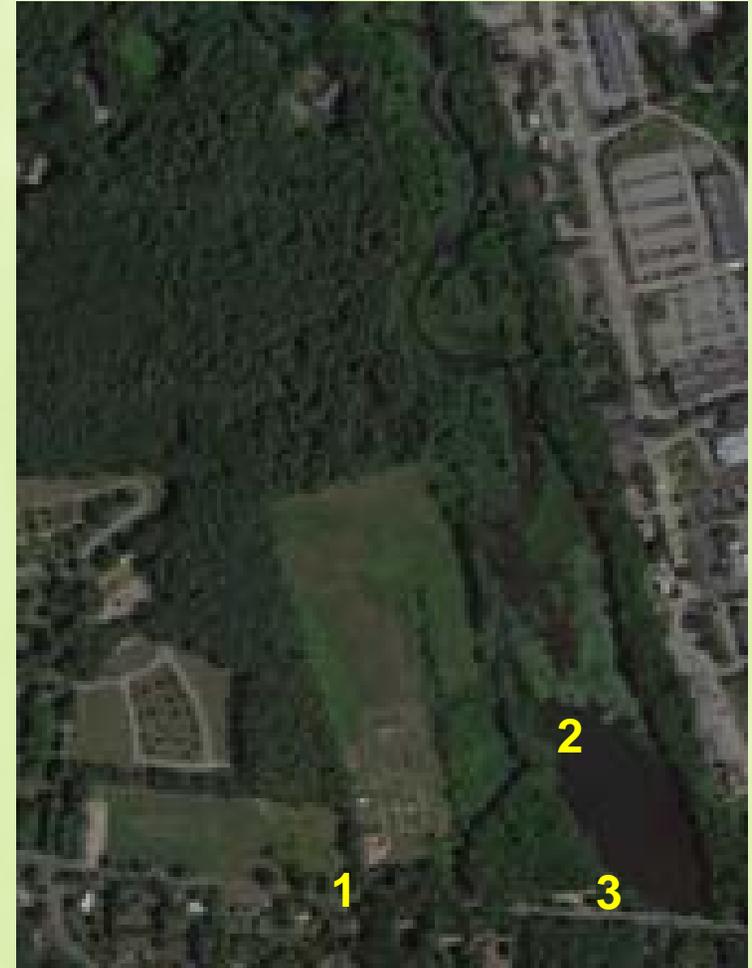
# Overview of Morrison Farm

- Treasured property
- Diverse pieces of the property
- Make incremental improvements
- Encourage more visits from more residents
- Continue to listen and make additional improvements



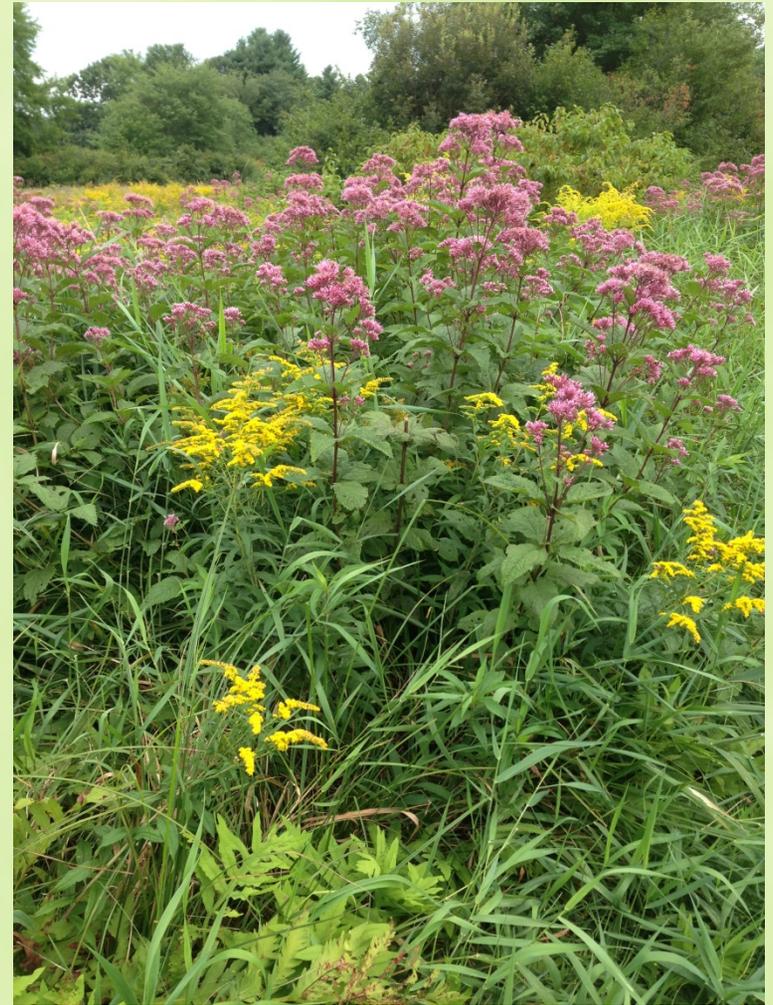
# Priorities for This Year's Plan

1. Preserve historic assets of Robbins Homestead cellar hole and Ice House foundation
2. Open up vistas and trails along Ice House pond
3. Encourage access through Ice House Pond parking



# Priorities for This Year's Plan

- Continue meadow management, forest, community gardens
- Increase visitors, awareness
- No changes to barn or outbuildings



# 1. History: Robbins Homestead and Ice House Foundation

- Conduct an archaeological survey of both Robbins Homestead and Ice House foundations
- Complete inventory forms
  - Cost estimated at \$12,000



# 1. History: Robbins Homestead and Ice House Foundation

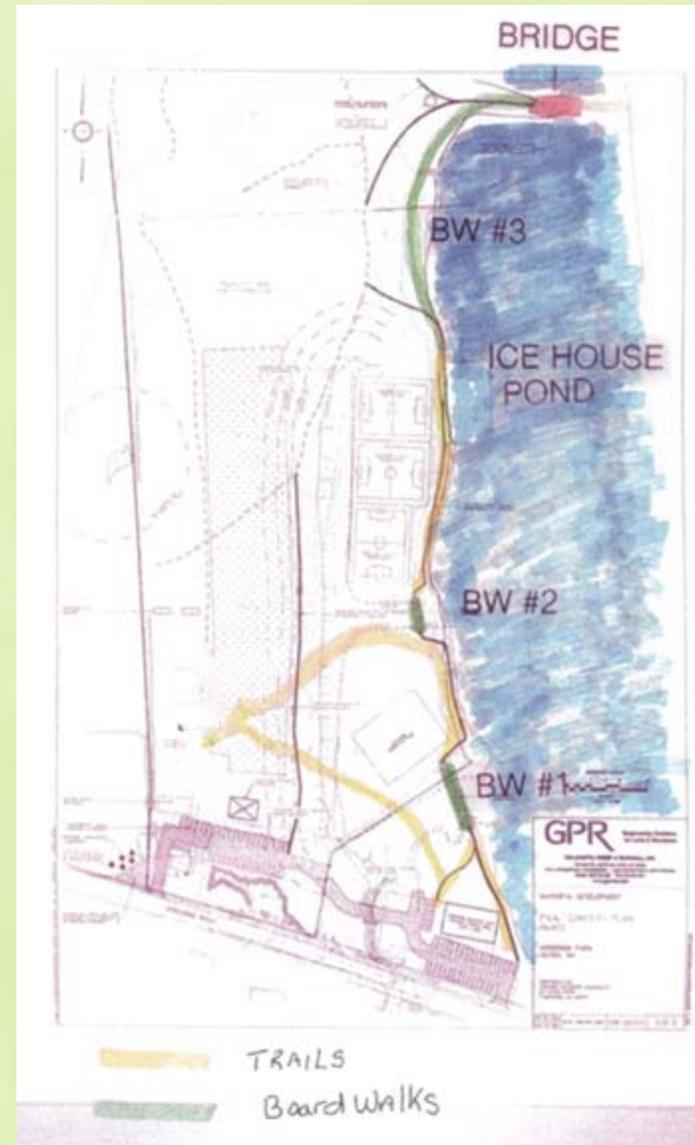


- Stabilize foundation for the Robbins Homestead
  - Cost estimated at \$15,000



## 2. Ice House Trails

- Clear and create trails along Ice House Pond
- Two short and one long (680') boardwalk crossings
- ADA accessible
- Connect into meadow
  - Cost \$331,700



### 3. Parking Improvements at Ice House Pond

- Clean around edges and resurface
  - 10-15 parking spots
- Signage
- Picnic tables
- Opens up new “entrance” to Morrison Farm
  - Cost \$57,850



# Cost Summary

Description	Subtotals	Totals	Sources
<b><i>Ice House Pond Trails and Boardwalk</i></b>		\$331,700	
Ice House Pond trail, path to meadow	\$156,700		Bruce Ringwall, Tom Tidman
Marsh boardwalk	\$175,000		Bruce Ringwall, Tom Tidman
<b><i>Historic Foundations</i></b>		\$27,000	
Archaeological survey of Robbins Homestead, Ice House foundation	\$12,000		Craig Chartier, Plymouth Archaeological
Stabilization of Robbins cellar hole	\$15,000		David Stewart-Smith, Dunraven Masonry
<b><i>Ice House Pond Parking, Picnic Area</i></b>		\$57,850	
Parking improvements	\$39,850		Bruce Ringwall
Picnic area	\$17,500		2013 estimate
Boat launch	\$500		2013 estimate
<b>Total Request</b>		<b>\$416,550</b>	

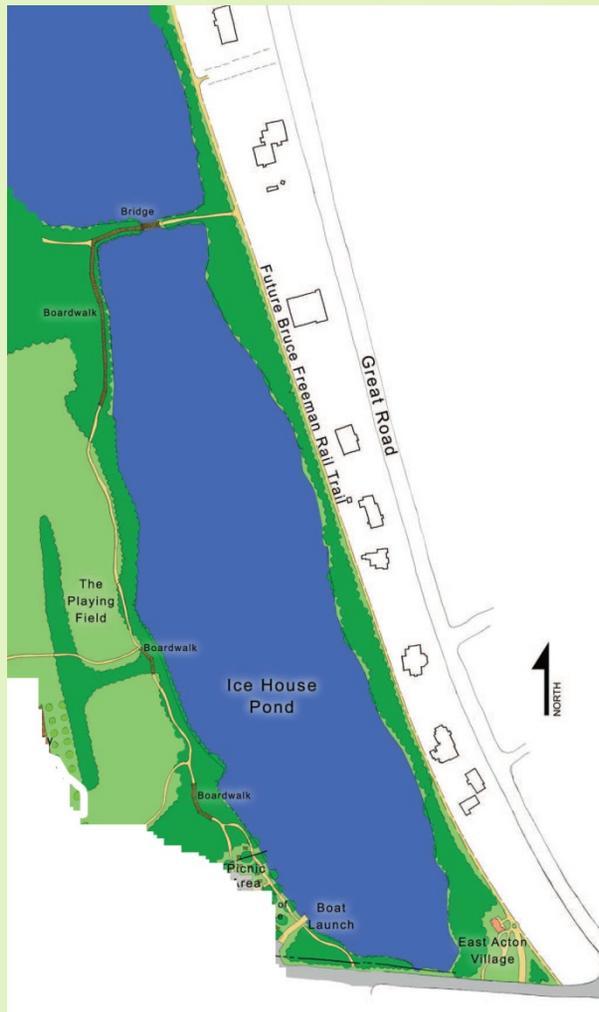
For all elements, relied on extensive cost estimating completed for 2013 proposal, and updated as necessary.



# Future Vision for Morrison Farm

- More visitors, more seasons
- Property easily identified and accessible to all
- Permanently conserve 16 acres of forest
- Linkages to eastern edge of Ice House Pond, East Acton Green, Bruce Freeman
- Consider playground area, interior pathways
- Continue to think about buildings

# Linkages



- Missing connections around the pond
- Revisit in future with opening of BFRT
- Trails proposed now border western edge of Ice House Pond
- Future trail could allow connection with eastern edge and East Acton history

# Buildings

- MFC reviewed Kelleher study (2010)
- Met with ACHC – ACHC provided recommendation to BOS for renting farmhouse
- Defer any recommendation on barn at this time
- Will continue to study potential uses for buildings on property





# Questions?