STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 2022

Newton is one of a few towns to have an old farm, originally owned by Forest Reynolds, and was passed on to Bev Batchelder and her husband Ed. This land is known as Hidden Acres Farm. The intent of the Conservation and Preservation Easement is to protect Hidden Acres Farm, located at 42 Thornell Road, from future development, and to conserve, preserve and maintain the unique characteristics of Hidden Acres Farm. Some outbuildings, which date back to the very early 1900’s include the home, 3 story bard and Milk Room. The old Blacksmith Shop is not part of the easement but certainly brings history to this parcel. This easement limits the use of the lands and buildings acquired as part of this project to preserve for purposes in perpetuity according to the easement. This Easement also allows for access to the 6-acre, town-owned parcel that abuts Hidden Acres Farm to the southwest called the Guscora Property and the Southeast Land Trust holds an easement on it. During our site walks this year we noticed that boundary markers on the Guscora Property have been moved for the 2nd year in a row. We will be having it surveyed this year and sharing the survey with the abutters just in case there is some confusion as to property lines.

The homeowner has worked hard this year trying to complete items on his list: maintenance on the barn, home and yard. Crops and fields have been cultivated, producing a vegetable crop and hay although the gardens suffered from the drought and what was left the animals ate. .

Blowdowns have been cut-up and, in some cases, milled for use on property. Pond on property was used for watering gardens and vegetables until it dried up. We should mention that all the work needed to maintain this easement is done at the owner's expense.

Sadly, we ended the year by losing one of the homeowners. Ed died on New Year’s Day 2023. His smile and humor will always stay with us as we try to continue his dream. We are always looking for help and this year will be even harder for this historic farm. If you want to pitch in for Ed, please email us at conservation@newtonnh.net, or call Trisha at 978-360-4152. Or perhaps the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts could help us. You know what they say, “if you give it out in slices, it comes back as loaves”.

Respectfully, Trisha McCarthy-Chairperson

Mary Marshall, Nancy Slombo, Carolyn Pekalsky, Ted Pekalsky, Mike Seekamp,

Barbara DiBartolomeo and Matthew Burrill, Selectmen Ex-Officio