

To the Warren Board of Selectmen:

The Board of Selectman (BOS) formed the Wasley Farm Committee in May 2020 to develop a recommendation on what could be done with the Farm; at its first meeting, the Committee established its mission: *to present viable and sustainable options to the town and selectmen on the future use of the Wasley property.*

In developing its recommendation, the Committee sought input from the community through a survey, resident input at our meetings and informal interviews with residents, town employees and other town committees. The Committee also considered the recreational activities that are currently available to Warren residents on Town-owned and other Warren properties.

We received many different and creative ideas for possible uses of the property including agriculture, recreation, open space preservation, a swimming pool and even a runway for small aircraft. There is also a group of residents that feel the Town should sell the property and use the proceeds for other important town initiatives. If the Town decides to retain the property, the uses most frequently suggested include:

- Preserve as is or for agricultural use;
- Hiking/walking trails;
- Create a community garden;
- Leasing the house, barn, some of the property to a new farmer;
- Provide farming/nature educational programming.

Accompanying this letter is the raw data from our survey so that you can see the specific responses for further detail.

For uses above and beyond the financial and personnel resources that can be committed by the Town, the committee recommends that the Town request proposals from town residents who are able to offer their talents, time and fundraising plans to design, implement and sustain such uses.

The committee also discussed at some length its concern about the ongoing maintenance of the house and barn and its inevitable deteriorating condition as it remains empty. We recommend that the BoS consider a solution for the house in order to support its maintenance as a viable building, and then determine a long-term plan for its use.

Respectfully:

Wasley Property Committee

*Robert DeLayo, Chair*

*Scott Parkhouse, Vice Chair*

*Kathy Engle-Dulac, Secretary*

*Elizabeth Chandler, member*

*Kathy Newton, member*

*Nathalie Brodhead, member*

*Josh Tanner, member*