

Lelia Evans  
255 Tamarack Road  
Stowe, VT 05672

January 15, 2022

Stowe Selectboard  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

As a Stowe resident and local supporter of the Stowe Land Trust, I've had the pleasure to serve on the fundraising committee for the Ricketson Campaign. I moved to Stowe eight years ago after taking a sabbatical from a teaching job in Boston. What I thought would be a temporary respite has turned into almost a decade. Like many others who have flocked to Stowe in search of world-class recreation, quality of life, a tight knit community, and mountain living, I decided to stay and put down roots. The leap of faith paid off, and I took up residence in a 1854 farm house on West Hill, and realized a long term dream by starting The Market Garden School, a small educational farm. I also continue to teach Spanish locally in Montpelier.

For the past five years, I've run summer farm camps and after school programming for our local kids, with the mission of cultivating connections between the land and people that sustains us. We give our campers the opportunity to explore where their food comes from by working and harvesting in our garden, and cooking in our outdoor kitchen to create healthy and yummy foods. Favorite recipes include Maple Glazed Beets and Carrots (Thanks for the syrup, Paul Percy!), Bean and Chicken hand pies (Thanks for the chicken, Bambi Freeman!), and Hand-made Chestnuts and Chevre Ravioli (Thanks for the goat cheese, Molly Pindell! And thanks to Jay Ross for the American Chestnuts!). We certainly are spoiled by the agricultural riches here in our rural community. And yet this intricate web that makes up our community's food sovereignty, and drives sustainable agricultural practices and diversity that will ensure the health of our land and community for years to come is a vulnerable one.

The protection of our agricultural lands is a matter of our quality of life, our health, the protection of our environment, and the continued stewardship of a town and way of life we all hold dear. I am grateful (each and every day that I drive down West Hill past the Mayo Farm!) for the history of conservation in Stowe, and so excited that we have the opportunity right now to protect such an extensive and important tract of land. I urge the Selectboard to support Stowe Land Trust's request for a \$200,000 capital contribution toward the conservation of Ricketson Farm. We need the town's full backing to close this project on time!

Many thanks for your time, consideration and dedication,

Lelia Evans

Rev. Dan Haugh  
188 Maple Street  
Stowe, VT 05672

Stowe Selectboard  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

As the Pastor of Stowe Community Church, I fully support efforts to conserve and protect the land. Over the decades, members of our congregation have worked collaboratively with the town of Stowe to ensure the continued beautification and preservation of our historic community, its buildings, business, and land. Members of our congregation have donated time, finances, and property for our precious environment and shared ecological home. The religious communities in Stowe value the sacredness and stewardship of creation and take seriously our collective responsibility to protect all habitats and their native inhabitants.

As a new full-time resident of Stowe, my family and I are thankful for the ample open spaces, plentiful nature trails, and diversity of natural beauty throughout the town. One of the aspects of the town that initially drew us to Stowe was seeing the working farms scattered throughout the area and witnessing the support of local farmers and business owners. I have been impressed by the town's commitments to land conservation and environmental stewardship, and therefore ask the Selectboard to support Stowe Land Trust's request for a \$200,000 capital contribution toward the conservation of Ricketson Farm.

The Ricketson Farm has long been a high-priority conservation target of the land trust, and now our community has a small window of opportunity to act in its defense. The project will build an agricultural base for future generations of farmers, allowing Stowe's rich farming heritage a chance to adapt and thrive in the years ahead. Additionally, the project will invest in our community's resilience to climate change and help protect important scenic views and the iconic landscape we all cherish. In all, the Ricketson Farm project will provide benefits on a number of important issues facing our community, and if successful will positively impact town residents and visitors in the years to come. In the opportunity before us, we have the chance to recommit to the conservation values that have helped create the Stowe we enjoy today. I am grateful for your consideration and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Haugh", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sincerely, Rev. Dan Haugh

Dear Selectboard members,

Thank you for including the appropriation toward conservation of the Ricketson Farm in the Town's draft budget for FY23. I know you have a long meeting ahead of you this evening. So, rather than take too much of your time at the meeting, I wanted to offer several reasons to include the project in this year's:

1. Character of the community. Part of what makes Stowe a great place to live and a desirable destination for tourists is the balance in our landscape between amenities (such as ski trails, stores and restaurants), and a traditional working landscape. Allowing the Ricketson Farm to be converted into yet another subdivision of homes would erase a feature that gives the town character and distinguishes it from other communities that are not conserving farm land.
2. Productive farm land. There are, at best, a few hundred acres of farm land in Stowe that come anywhere near the productivity of the Ricketson Farm. Conserving the land will ensure it is not forever removed from our limited pool of productive farm land.
3. Future of agriculture: Dairy farming is on the ropes financially. So was sheep farming 150 years ago, but dairy superseded it. The Ricketson property may not continue to operate as a stand-alone dairy farm indefinitely. But it has many possible agricultural uses -- grass-fed beef, hemp, vegetables? Conserving the property allows time and opportunity for new uses to take root and flourish.
4. Housing: Affordable housing is in short supply in Stowe. Given exceedingly high demand for vacation homes, who's to say any portion of the Ricketson property would actually be occupied by people who work in Stowe but cannot afford to purchase or rent a home here? If the Selectboard wishes address that shortage, there are more direct and effective ways to do so than by declining to support conservation of one of Stowe's land working farms. Direct appropriations to LHP projects, and revising zoning bylaws that permit conversion of full-time residences into lodging are two direct measures that come to mind.
5. Leveraging other funds. Because other organizations and private donors have donated or committed funds to this project, the Town has the opportunity to conserve this large and important property for a cost that is very small in relation to the public benefits and to the town's budget. Stowe Land Trust has done a masterful job of drawing from these many sources. All of those sources, including the Town's appropriation, are necessary to make conservation of the Ricketson Farm possible.
6. No assurance of a second chance. Once a farm is subdivided, sold off and built upon, it is near impossible to restore it to open, productive agricultural land. The Town is fortunate that the Ricketson family has given the land trust and Town the opportunity to conserve the property in its current form. But we should not assume that the Ricketson's have the means or the patience to wait until the Town thinks the time is right, or until the Land Trust can secure funds from another source. Opportunity has knocked. The Town needs to open the door and welcome in the partner.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Good luck in your budget deliberations.

Regards,

Larry Lackey

Dear Selectboard members,

Please provide the full amount of \$200,000 to enable the conservation of the Ricketson Farm. This property must be protected for continued agricultural use going forward.

As someone who grew up on a small and rocky hill farm in Stowe, I understand and appreciate how valuable the Ricketson Farm's flat and fertile ancestral flood plain soils are for agriculture. A big reason being because there are NO ROCKS in these deposits. This means that the tillage of these soils will continue to be efficient and suitable for all types of ag enterprises. Rocks will not need to be picked after every plowing, and there will be less equipment breakage to affect the bottom line, no matter the type of ag production that occurs here.

The future of Stowe's agricultural mix will include many exciting types of innovations and enterprises. Whatever type of farming occurs on the Ricketson Farm property, be it animal forages for beef or dairy, vegetables, green houses, compost, grains, herbs, or new innovations, Stowe's agricultural soils must be protected. Especially the soils that are located on flat, open, rock free, fertile areas. These important resources can never be replaced or mitigated once developed.

Please help save Stowe's local agricultural lands for our present and future needs.

Thank you,

Liz Lackey  
Stowe, VT



January 7, 2022

Jim Lovinsky  
Lamoille Housing Partnership  
49 Brigham Street / PO Box 637  
Morrisville VT 05661  
[jim@lamoillehousing.org](mailto:jim@lamoillehousing.org) / (802) 888-5714

Stowe Select Board  
C/O Charles Safford, Town Manager  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

RE: Funding Request for Ricketson Farm Conservation Request

Dear Stowe Select Board,

As you may know, Lamoille Housing Partnership receives funding and support from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) whose dual mission is to support Vermonters through the development of perpetually affordable housing and conserve working farm and forestland in Vermont for future generations. This dual mission ensures Vermont's traditional values are upheld and affordability continues well into the future.

Lamoille Housing Partnership supports fellow VHCB member, The Stowe Land Trust, in their efforts to conserve the Ricketson Farm. We urge you to also support their important work and this initiative by fully funding their request for \$200,000 from the Town. The Stowe Land Trust and the Vermont Land Trust are working together with the Ricketson's to raise \$2.5 million, which will be used to place a permanent conservation easement on the 217 acre farm. The long-term benefits of this effort shared by the Town will far exceed this investment in the future of Stowe and the surrounding area.

The Stowe Land Trust and Lamoille Housing Partnership have been working together for many years to identify suitable sites that support our respective mission's in action and meet the housing and conservation needs of our communities. We are always looking to find common areas where housing and conservation may co-exist; the importance of each and how they work together builds a strong, vibrant, and sustainable community. Working together, we are creating bright futures for generations to come.

Again, I urge you to support this worthy project and thank you for your time and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Jim Lovinsky

Executive Director

John Barrington Matthews  
379 Weeks Hill Road  
Stowe, VT 05672

December 22, 2021

Stowe Selectboard  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

As Stowe Land Trust's Community Engagement Manager, I see the impact of our town's conserved land every day. From both residents and visitors, I hear stories of how protected land has improved people's lives—providing first-rate recreational resources, a local source of fresh, healthy food, and the scenic backdrop that makes day-to-day life in Stowe feel so special. Opportunities to build on our town's rich legacy of conservation are becoming increasingly rare, and require a unified response from our community when they arise. In the Ricketson Farm project, we have the chance to recommit to the conservation values that have helped create the Stowe we enjoy today. As a new full-time resident of Stowe, I am incredibly grateful for the town's early investments in land protection and open space, and feel strongly that we should continue to lead in these efforts. To that end, I urge the Selectboard to support Stowe Land Trust's request for a \$200,000 capital contribution toward the conservation of Ricketson Farm.

The Ricketson Farm has long been a high-priority conservation target of the land trust, and now our community has a small window of opportunity to act in its defense. Farmland is at its highest risk of development during moments of transition, and once developed its rich agricultural potential is lost forever. As a historic farmland protection project—attracting record support from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board—the Ricketson Farm offers the chance to protect vital resources on a number of important fronts. The project will build an agricultural base for future generations of farmers, allowing Stowe's rich farming heritage a chance to adapt and thrive in the years ahead. Conservation will protect the iconic landscape of Stowe's northern gateway, and its scenic views of open pastoral land backed by Mount Mansfield and our ski areas. And the project will be an investment in our community's resilience to climate change. Conserved woodlands and wetlands at the north end of the property will contribute to carbon storage and improved water quality, and will provide important habitat for native flora and fauna. A degraded section of the Moss Glenn Brook along Route 100 will be protected with a separate River Corridor Easement which, along with the adjacent conserved farmland, will limit erosion and improve stormwater runoff management—issues of concern identified in the town's five-year Hazard Mitigation plan. In all, the Ricketson Farm project will provide benefits on a number of important issues facing our community, and if successful will positively impact town residents and visitors in the years to come.

Conservation is an inherently forward-looking endeavor. Today, the Ricketson Farm embodies much of what we value about our community, and what draws us to—and keeps us in—Stowe. Its conservation will allow the benefits we enjoy in the present to be shared by future generations. What happens to the Ricketson Farm impacts us all, and its protection deserves our full consideration and support. I strongly encourage the town Selectboard to back Stowe Land Trust's request for a \$200,000 capital contribution, and the investment in our town's future that it represents.

Most sincerely,



Barry Matthews

Annie Paradee  
Long Winter Farm  
1187 Nebraska Valley Road  
Stowe, VT 05672

January 13, 2022  
Stowe Selectboard  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

As a current owner and steward of a conserved farm in Stowe, I am enthused by the Stowe Land Trust's ambitious efforts to conserve the Ricketson Farm. My life is enriched by the open spaces conserved by the Land Trust and I frequently choose public access properties like Weissner Woods for fresh air and movement away from my own home. My family's livelihood is based on the business we've built on our 49 conserved acres in Nebraska Valley, and I think it's fair to say our business, Long Winter Farm, enriches the lives of our customers. We currently sell organic produce through our CSA 10 months out of the year, feeding 70 families in the summer and 20 in the shoulder seasons. We also have a self-service farmstand that is open to the public for about six months. In addition to our organic produce, we supply pork and beef to Stowe and Waterbury-area families. Our products have been embraced enthusiastically by the community since we purchased the former Kaiser farm in 2016 and began growing here, and we are always fielding more demand for produce, eggs and meat than we can actually supply. There is absolutely no way we would be farming in Stowe without having had the opportunity to purchase conserved farmland.

There are many young entrepreneurs in Vermont and the greater Northeast who are interested in starting or expanding sustainable agricultural enterprises. One of the most immense hurdles to new or young and expanding farmers is access to affordable land. Affordable land with easy access to interested customers, restaurants, farmer's markets and shops, like the land proposed for conservation with the Ricketson Farm project, is ideal. While property values are higher than ever, so too are opportunities for farmers hoping to enrich communities by providing sustainable agricultural goods while being stewards to cherished parcels of land.

Our business name - Long Winter Farm - was derived from our love of Stowe. My husband and I met at the mountain and are devoted resort and backcountry skiers. Our business goals are to provide fresh, organic produce year-round, including and especially during the ski season, in a way that is environmentally sustainable, with the recognition that growing food while sequestering carbon is an impact we can make to keep the winters long in the face of climate change. Stowe has everything my family values: abundant skiing and hiking, great cafes and restaurants, a vibrant community, good schools, and a Land Trust that provided us the opportunity to develop our dream business while raising a young family. All of these elements complement the other, and I think it's a great time to offer substantial support to the farming portion of Stowe's multifaceted community. I encourage you to consider supporting the Stowe Land Trust's request for a \$200,000 capital contribution to keep the Ricketson Farm property available for agricultural use into perpetuity.

Gratefully,

Annie Paradee

Dear Selectboard,

I am writing in support of funding for the conservation of the Ricketson farm. In my opinion, there are certain undeveloped agriculture properties in town that have a transformative affect on the community. The mayo farm is one. The Ricketson farm is another. Thanks to Kristen, the Ricketson's, and everyone who has contributed to funding it, this is an amazing opportunity to keep some of the best agriculture land in the state, in agriculture.

Thank you,

Ryan Percy



Katie Pindell  
2248 West Hill Rd.  
Stowe, VT 05672

January 11, 2022

Stowe Selectboard  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

As farmer in the town of Stowe, I am engaged daily in the working landscape of this community. Farming is not easy, but it is rewarding in many ways, including spending long days in the outdoors, allowing the rhythm of life to be set by natural cycles, and sharing delicious food grown on the land with other people. These values are reflected back to me as shared by our community when bikers stop to say hello to the animals grazing on pasture or when folks spend time outside our farm store discussing the merits of locally grown food. Our community has demonstrated that our farmland is more than just the value of the land, more than just the value of the products made on that land. The value of our farmland is that it is a place for all of us to be part of an ecological community where clean water flows and soils grow productive plants and native birds sing from the edges of pastures and cropland that hold promise of a hearty meal.

But as I said, doing the work of farming is not easy. Most aspiring farmers cannot overcome the financial hurdle of land access. Our state's traditional dairy farmers are struggling to hold onto land that has been in their families for generations because the food they create and their legacy as land stewards has been undervalued. The Ricketson Farm contains exceptional agricultural soils, and as such, is one of the most valuable agricultural properties in Stowe for a wide array of farm activities. For those reasons, the Stowe Land Trust's effort to conserve the Ricketson Farm is at this time the most important thing our community can do to support the reality of economically viable farms and preserve the legacy of farming in Stowe. Whether we see conventional dairy maintain its foothold along the Route 100 corridor or see a new farming enterprise unfold along our northern border, it will benefit all citizens of this town, from its ecological and aesthetic value to the local food it will produce.

Because farming is a community-wide venture that benefits all citizens and because land access is a major challenge for those who want to work the land, I urge the Selectboard to support Stowe Land Trust's request for a \$200,000 capital contribution toward the conservation of Ricketson Farm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Pindell', written in a cursive style.

Katie Pindell

Molly Pindell  
Sage Farm Goat Dairy  
2248 West Hill Road  
Stowe, VT 05672

Stowe Selectboard  
P.O. Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

January 11, 2022

Dear Selectboard members:

I am writing in support of the Stowe Land Trust's request for \$200,000 from the Town of Stowe to contribute to the Ricketson Farm conservation project. My family and I have owned and operated a small farm, Sage Farm Goat Dairy, in Stowe for the past 13 years. Both as a farmer and as a taxpayer in the town of Stowe, I believe that this project is well worth supporting with town funds.

I know firsthand how difficult it can be to preserve farmland in our community. Land values are at an all-time high, and development pressures are ever present. Just as in the rest of Vermont, we face an impending wave of farmland transition, as older farmers retire and have more and more trouble passing their land on to new folks who want to keep farming. Barriers to entry as a new farmer are very high, especially in the dairy sector, and the cost of farmland is one of the most significant factors. Conservation easements are an indispensable tool in lowering those barriers to entry; without them, we will have an increasingly difficult time maintaining a vibrant farming community and economy in our state.

Concurrently, our tourists expect to experience the iconic, pastoral Vermont landscape that has long defined our region. This landscape is one of the things that tourists value most about visiting Vermont, and if more of Stowe's farmland disappears, our town certainly stands to lose some of its cachet as a destination. The Ricketson Farm property is exactly the kind of landscape that visitors crave-rolling, open fields stretching out toward views of Mt. Mansfield in the west and the Worcester range in the east.

A few years ago, the Town of Stowe voted to spend a significant amount of money to bury our downtown powerlines in the interest of beautifying the views on Main Street. To me, this spending seemed primarily to benefit the interests of the tourism sector. Spending \$200,000 to help ensure the success of a project that will benefit multiple sectors of our local economy, including both tourism and farming, sounds like a great deal. I urge the Selectboard to approve these funds and help secure the conservation of the Ricketson Farm for current and future generations of farmers, townspeople, and tourists.

Sincerely,  
Molly Pindell  
Owner, Sage Farm Goat Dairy



January 13, 2022

Stowe Selectboard  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

I am writing to express our support for the Ricketson Farm project. The Ricketson Farm project will benefit several vital issues facing our community and will positively impact town residents and visitors in the years to come.

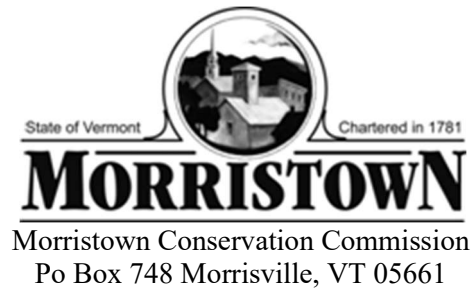
Stowe Area Association is a member-based destination marketing organization that promotes the Stowe, Vermont region as a vibrant, world-class destination to live, work, and play. We have many tourists coming to the area who live in metropolitan areas and do not have exposure to rural farm culture in their daily lives. Many of our visitors choose to come to Stowe for its exposure to rural life and culture in addition to its incredible outdoor activities/recreation. We believe Ricketson Farm is part of this rich history.

We strongly encourage the town Selectboard to back Stowe Land Trust's request for a \$200,000 capital contribution and the investment in our town's future that it represents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie Simmons", written in a cursive style.

Carrie Simmons  
Executive Director,  
Stowe Area Association



January 10, 2022

Stowe Selectboard  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Greetings from the Morristown Conservation Commission.(MCC)

I am Ron Stancliff, chair of MCC. Our Conservation Commission was formed after the birth of Act 250, dedicated to advising the planners, DRB, and selectboard of Morristown on development issues. The commission is very diversified; consisting of retirees from Vermont Agencies, an employee with ANR, an attorney, a retired school teacher and others with an educational background in environmental issues.

Although we primarily have an interest in Morristown land and activities, we do take note of worthy projects in neighboring towns, such as protecting Brownsville, where we were happy to contribute to its successful completion. Now we are looking at another SLT project on VT Route 100 between Stowe and Morristown, the Ricketson Farm. We have already made a contribution and are now supporting SLT in its endeavor to close the deal in March.

WE have an interest in this project beyond the value of the agricultural land. Twenty five acres of the Ricketson Farm in Morristown borders the UVM owned Molly's Pond, a natural bog area with floral and fauna value.

MCC encourages you and the Stowe community to participate in this project. In addition to protecting an agricultural resource and an environmentally sensitive area, the scenic beauty that now exists when traveling Vermont Route 100 from Morristown to Stowe will not be spoiled by unwanted development. Lets protect Vermont's rural character. That is why we are visited!

Best,

Ronald L. Stancliff

H. Brenton Teillon  
863 Elmore Mountain Rd  
Morrisville, VT 05661

January 10, 2022

Stowe Selectboard  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Dear Members of the Selectboard:

This letter concerns the conservation of the Ricketson Farm located on the Stowe-Morristown town line.

My name is Brent Teillon, a resident of Morristown, living on the Elmore Mountain Road for over 50 years. I was previously employed by ANR VT Dept of Forest, Parks & Recreation in their Main office in Waterbury as Chief of Forest Resource Protection (FPR). I commuted on Route 100 from Morristown through Stowe for over 25 years (often waiting for Ken to cross the cows) and traveled extensively throughout the State. I have personally seen and share the growing concern about the loss of open space, particularly agricultural land, throughout Vermont. As an active member of the Morristown Conservation Commission, I am trying to do my part to conserve prime agricultural land. Along with others, I have recently requested and supported the Morristown Selectboard to make donations to conserve the Brownsville-Story Ridge Forest and the Valcour Farm, and most recently The Ricketson Farm Project. My wife and I have made our personal contributions to all of the above projects.

When employed by FPR, I had the responsibility to respond to the annual inquires, as to what the fall foliage would be like that year. I particularly remember a bus company from Texas that always called me before coming. "We are thinking about concentrating our trip in NH/Maine because I read VT is in a drought", or "I hear you have 300,000 acres infested with pear thrips in the maples. How will this affect the colors and will it be a big impact on the viewing." My truthful answer was "very small scattered sections were impacted, but we have over 4 million acres of healthy forest land in the state where the foliage will be as beautiful as ever. And remember, Vermont has beautiful farms with open green meadows, backed by the bright orange and reds in the maples groves that you don't get everywhere." They always said we will come because Texans enjoy seeing Dairy cows and the quaint barns. The point is Vermont farms add tremendously to the beauty of the State. They are one of our main attractions. To quote a Joni Mitchell song "don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you got until its gone, you pave paradise and put up a parking lot". I hope this never happens on the rich, productive soils found on the Ricketson Farm.

Fully supporting this project is the last chance we have to save one of Stowe's last remaining farms. A chance to keep Vermonter's connected to our past. A chance to keep Stowe as one of Vermont's leading towns, with a beautiful village with a white steeple church nestled in the hills, and green pastures and corn fields framing the town. (How long will we be able to say that!)

I humbly request you support the Ricketson Farm Conservation Project by contributing the requested \$200,000.

Sincerely,

*Brent Teillon*

David Wilkens  
2248 West Hill Road  
Stowe, VT 05672

Stowe Selectboard  
P.O. Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

January 11, 2022

Dear Selectboard members:

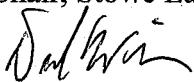
I am writing to you regarding the town's proposed \$200,000 support for the Ricketson Farm project. I am currently the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Stowe Land Trust; my wife Molly Pindell owns and operates Sage Farm Goat Dairy and I am also the owner and operator of Strawberry Hill Farm among other things.

Our community is under great pressure from three directions. First, the pandemic has accelerated the purchase and development of available land leading to an upward price spiral that is making it more difficult to purchase increasingly scarce large parcels. Second, the aging of our farming community combined with a lack of clear succession strategies as well as a crisis in the traditional dairy farming economy has left many farms exposed to these development pressures. This issue is most acute in towns like Stowe. Third, no matter your opinion on the subject, the climate is changing and high quality, arable farmland, which is non-renewable, could become a scarce resource in many parts of the country decades from now. I consider Ricketson a form of insurance against that eventuality.

Stowe is a unique community. As far as I can think, it is one of the only world-class four-season resort towns that has an active farming community. Development pressure threatens this heritage and diversity and could result in us becoming like any other cookie cutter resort town. While the type of farming might change, our identity is tied up in the notion that Vermont is a farming state. Stowe Land Trust necessarily takes the very long view on these issues. Having the option to preserve high-quality farm land is a strategic imperative for our community and we must think about the future residents of the valley 50-100 years from now who might need this land. They will thank us.

While the community campaign is going well, there are no assurances that we could make up for the short-fall should the Selectboard decided not to support this proposal. So, I implore the Selectboard to support this proposal. I believe \$200,000 is a very reasonable price to make it happen.

Sincerely,  
David Wilkens  
Chair, Stowe Land Trust Board of Directors





# Stowe Elementary School

January 20, 2022

Stowe Selectboard  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

As educators from Stowe Elementary School, we are very excited about the prospect of conserving the Ricketson Farm. Students in our school are learning about their community and its history, including the heritage of farming in Stowe. Through their studies, they have become aware of the decline in the number of farms in Stowe over the years. We are hopeful that this farm can be conserved and that our students can continue to see the benefits that farms bring to our community.

We have a Farm To School program at Stowe Elementary School and our students are learning about where their food comes from. They are learning to appreciate the value of what can be grown and harvested in our own gardens, on local farms; as well as learning about where our milk comes from. The youngest students are always amazed to find out that what they are eating and drinking may have very well come from a farm in Stowe! Conserving the Ricketson Farm will help to guarantee that this will be the case for years to come.

Stowe students are making sense of their world on many levels, every day. We'd like to think that farming is something they can grow up with, and appreciate for all the good it brings to the community. We sincerely hope that the Selectboard will support Stowe Land Trust's request for a \$200,000 capital contribution toward the conservation of Ricketson Farm. This conservation project will be beneficial to our youngest citizens, and will be good for us all, in so many ways.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nina Sladé, Principal

Beth Bradford, Kindergarten Teacher

Tamara North, 4th Grade Teacher

P.O. BOX 760, STOWE, VT 05672