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Subject: Barn at Wakeman Town Farm
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Good Afternoon,

My name is Mary Hoffman. My husband Dan and I, along with our 2 children, Hilary, 33y/o and David, 30y/o, are proud residents of Westport for over 32 years. We feel very lucky to live in a town that offers everyone in our community a place they can find peace and joy. Compo Beach, Burying Hill Beach, Sherwood Island Beach, The YMCA, Longshore, all of the ball fields, all of the schools and the programs offered in each, the library, the Arts Center, the Historical Society, the Westport Country Playhouse, the Levitt Pavilion, Earthplace, Westport Farmers Market, the Westport Observatory, Winslow Park, and the newest GEM, yet with significant history, Wakeman Town Farm.

Almost 15 years ago, Liz Milwe and Peter Wormser introduced me to WTF. Since the first minute I stepped onto the beautiful property on Cross Highway, I was smitten. There is no where else in Westport that I, Mary Hoffman, feel such peace and a sense of belonging. I am not athletic, I am not artsy, I love to look at the ocean, but I do not enjoy hanging at the beach, but I LOVE LOVE LOVE how I feel when I am at the farm. The people (babies to Grannies) at the farm share a similar respect for the earth, the animals and all that grows and blossoms at the farm. When I see the baby goats, the chickens, the alpacas, the ducks, and the rabbits, I exhale, I smile, and I am grateful for the Constantino family for their generosity and their gift of the WTF to the town of Westport.

Ever since 2010 my favorite place to donate both time and dollars is WTF. My husband and I attended almost every Harvest Fest since 2010, in fact we were on the committee for the very first Harvest Fest, that was lead by Dan Levinson and his Westport GVI. We watched the farm grow from a few small raised beds and a high school intern program, to a 12 month a year bustling community of all ages, learning and celebrating together, at the farm. Tim's Kitchen hosts programs for all ages to learn to understand where healthy food comes from, not Stop and Shop, it comes from the earth. Tim's Kitchen has welcomed chefs from all culinary backgrounds and is a place to host beautiful celebrations. With each changing season there are family events to attend with little children. Happy opportunities the entire family can enjoy; pet a goat, decorate a pumpkin, listen to holiday music and sip warm cocoa, enjoy an egg toss after going on an egg hunt, watch a movie outdoors while eating pizza from the pizza oven, listen to a lecture about planting a pollinator garden, learn how honey is harvested and pressed, all the while recycling is happening, along with composting and very few things go to waste.

How lucky we are, we survived the pandemic, the day campers still came, the gatherings happened (just spread out a bit in the fresh outdoors). And we paid our bills. Our farm lovers paid for the programs and our generous supporters continued to donate. We are the best of what Westport is all about.

The barn, like all of us, is aging and needs a facelift (OK, maybe I am talking about myself!). A barn renovation would allow for a modern, clean, safe, and shaded space for all kinds of activities. The addition of a bathroom would be practical for both the farm volunteers and program attendees. The barn holds many memories, yet it is actually falling apart. A new barn will inspire new memories, new friendships, and new experiences. The barn will remain a piece of Westport's history, it will hold my stories and your stories and future Westporter's stories.

**Please help all of us that love Westport and Wakeman Town Farm to continue to safeguard and celebrate all things with 2 legs or 4 legs, our bees and bunnies, our trees and vegetables,
but most of all the people who find the farm to be their happy place, like me.**

**Thank you,
Mary**