

From: [Planning and Zoning](#)
To: [Mello, Hannah](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Wakeman Town Farm barn restoration
Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 8:31:39 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

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From: alice ely <alice@gardenwithalice.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 4:44 PM
To: Planning and Zoning <PANDZ@westportct.gov>
Cc: Perillie, Michelle <mperillie@westportct.gov>
Subject: Proposed Wakeman Town Farm barn restoration

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Hello, I am writing this letter to support the proposed WTF barn restoration.

I have been involved in the gardens at WTF since 2016, and on the board since 2018. As such the barn has been the most vital building at the farm for any work involving the gardens, which are, after all, the very heart of what the farm stands for.

For obvious reasons of hygiene, activities involving dirt, compost, caring for seedlings (and nurturing baby chicks!) not to mention tool care, cannot be conducted in the Tim's Kitchen space.

So, the farm staff, our wonderful volunteers, as well as me, have used the barn in all four seasons, and the barn's general decrepitude and lack of heat and water, have been an ongoing hardship. Imagine trying to sow tiny seeds in February in a freezing cold room, and filling watering can after watering can with cold water from a tap 100 feet away and lugging it back into the barn in icy weather, to keep the thirsty seedlings watered. . .while listening to constant scurrying of (God knows what?!) in the ceiling and walls around you. (Everything had to be stored in glass jars to keep the rodents out.) And not having a sink to wash the dirt off hands and tools. Not to mention the struggle to open and shut the creaky barn doors every time we came in and out, to keep our campers safe from the heavy equipment stored inside.

So, this barn renovation is long awaited, and your support is very much a vote of appreciation and encouragement to our hardworking, dedicated staff and volunteers!

Alice Ely
Garden Coach



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