

# PROJECT NARRATIVE

**Site:** 70 North Avenue & 134 Cross Highway; Westport

**Site Area:** 102.34 ac.

**Zone:** AAA Residential Zone

## Overview

Wakeman Town Farm, a registered non-profit and educational farm, is seeking approval for the renovation and a minor expansion of the existing barn. Since the inception of the Wakeman Town Farm the barn has served as the key facility supporting the farm's mission to provide agricultural education, sustainability awareness, and hands-on experiences for students and community members. The farm is part of Staples High School students agriculture curriculum. The renovation and expansion of the barn will enhance the farm's activities and further promote the farm's capacity to provide programs and services to the schools and the community.

## Proposal

The proposed project includes the preservation and renovation of the barn's exterior and space allocation within the existing footprint of the barn. The proposed renovation will include a new septic system to serve the proposed restroom and service sink. The parking for the barn will continue to utilize the parking along Wakeman Drive and the athletic field's ample parking lot to the south. The proposal also includes the following:

**Pantry** - A dedicated pantry will enable proper storage of produce and other food items for educational use, community programs, and farm operations.

**Seed Room** - The creation of a seed room will support the farm's focus on sustainable agriculture, providing a space for seed saving, sorting, and activities that will be incorporated into educational workshops.

**Activity Room** - This flexible, multi-use activity room will allow for a variety of programming, including workshops, classes, and group activities, serving both students and community groups.

**Storage** - Additional storage space will accommodate essential tools, supplies, and equipment needed for farm operations and educational activities.

**Bathroom** - The inclusion of a bathroom will improve accessibility for visitors and staff, making the barn a more accommodating and functional space for all.

## Anticipated Community Impact

The proposed renovations to the barn will significantly enhance Wakeman Town Farm's role as a community resource. The new facilities will support educational programs and community events, reinforcing the farm's mission to create a working farm to educate the community and promote local healthy food production, responsible land stewardship, sustainable practices and community service activities.