

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 renovation, reconstruction, and expansion of the barn. A new septic system will be installed to support a restroom and service sink. Approximately 20 parking spots adjacent to the barn will provide convenient access for visitors and staff. Once construction is complete, the existing landscaping will be restored, with no additional lighting planned beyond standard building-mounted fixtures. 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 project 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.