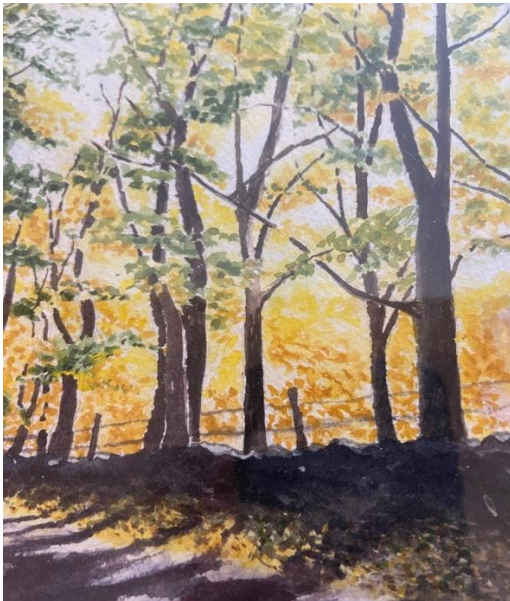


Nina McCarthy
833 Hastings Rd.
Geneva, NY 14456
November 6, 2021

Town of Ipswich
Ipswich Planning and Development Department
25 Green Street
Ipswich, MA 01938

To the Members of the Ipswich Planning and Development Department:

As I See It –



On Waldingfield

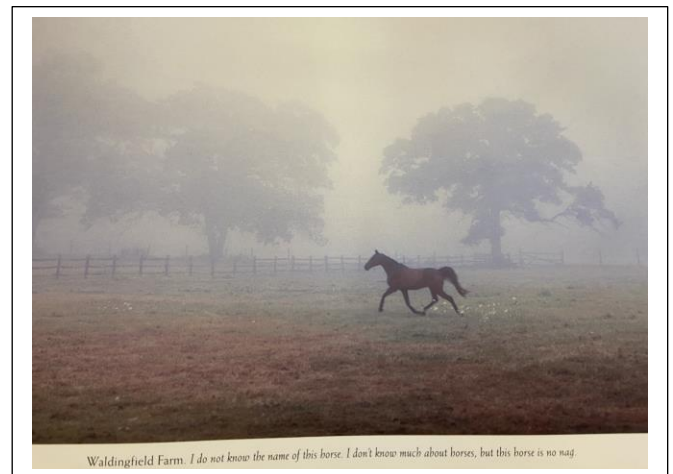
This road, sun-drawn in stark October light,
Might lead somebody home on a December
Night
Remembering....
Fellowships of walks tread between its walls
In evenings warm and days of spring.



A classic panoply of green
As often interlaced with white fence,
 red gate,
 intermittent breeze,
As with cool walls of stone
Find grass, pale green, and soft-mown,
Lying hushed beneath a litany of leaves...

Here and there a horse paused,
Slowly lifting a head and mane
To check my passing care,
And each, alone,
Seemed unpossessed of any memories
Of fly-swarmed summer air
Or seared, frenetic heat.
But one horse caught my gaze
And I thought of all we shared
In the road we loved.
Because of this,
I knew my children too
Would know this love of Waldingfield.

(anonymous poem written about 35 years ago and published in the Hamilton/Wenham Chronicle)



I offer the above artistic responses to Waldingfield Road as a tribute to the vision begun by Randolph Morgan Appleton in 1862 and still enjoyed one hundred fifty-nine years later because of the care and generosity of many generations who valued and shared in its stewardship, including 5 generations of my own family.

Present considerations for 55 Waldingfield do not respect its history. "The property will continue to change with the times," concludes John Harden, Ora's architect, whose goal in writing "55 Waldingfield Rd., "Waldingfield" 1929 "is to understand the context of the existing property in order to inform the design of the future project." In Waldingfield's history, change happened only out of necessity.

Necessity due to death and insolvency so lands sold into smaller properties; fire destruction of original home, and progress that caused them to move away from the railroad tracks as documented in Mr. Harden's article.

Continuation of its natural features is Waldingfield's more constant history through thoughtful stewardship –

- rebuying of the property by Appleton's heirs,
- architectural design for the view of the river to be respected and celebrated from the home, it is allowed to exist in its natural setting,
- and finally resisting progress as Appleton Farms became part of the Trustees of Reservation Land and the gift of 59-acre Julia Bird Reservation as a part of the Essex County Greenbelt.
- Most importantly, Waldingfield's resources have always been generously shared with the general public whether riders, hikers, canoers and all kinds of agricultural, historical, social and artistic occasions - all enjoy its bounty of open space and idyllic peace.

I sincerely hope that necessity of large corporate interest in expansion into rural space, or enough time to fully explore the full impact of a corporate development or other options that may impact the rural character less - do not prevail. I believe you will continue the thoughtful stewardship of this area's natural and historic value entrusted to you by generations, both past and in the future. Please vote to deny the permit application as I do not believe the development plans are respectful of Waldingfield's legacy.

Sincerely,

Nina McCarthy