



## **Food & Farm Futures: A Working Luncheon to Help Plan the Future of North Amherst Community Farm Come for Lunch — Stay to Plan**

You are invited to attend a community planning event on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 noon in the Community Room, lower level, North Amherst Congregational Church (North Amherst Center).

The fundamentals are in place. Now that NACF has purchased the former Dziekanowski family farm and Simple Gifts Farm holds a formal lease on the property, we can all turn our attention to how the two organizations will grow and mature in this place.

We are inviting SGF Shareholders, NACF neighbors and donors, representatives of relevant Boards of the Town of Amherst, teachers and administrators from Amherst schools (public & private), and all other interested members of the North Amherst Farm Community to attend this event. We invite you to come for lunch and stay to plan.

We will provide a luncheon from 12 noon until 1:00 in conjunction with a film of the progress so far. After lunch until 4:00 pm we will work (in large and small groups). We will relate the story so far, including the historical perspective, outlining the farm and how it came to be. The farmers, Jeremy Barker-Plotkin and David Tepfer will describe their farm plans, how they intend to work the land, to what purpose, and they will be looking for reactions from everyone.

Topics for collective consideration during the afternoon will include:

- Farms and farm landscapes are quintessentially picturesque; we put them on postcards and we fight for their preservation. But up close, they can sometimes smell and they are sometimes noisy. There is an energy that is exciting, but also disruptive. What are acceptable impacts for the surrounding residential areas? What is the process for managing the neighborhood's expectations as to the behavior of an agricultural neighbor. What benefits can we look forward to?
- What is the public education role of a community farm? What programming in support of school curricula and public education around farming, food, and nutrition should be developed? By whom?
- What is the role of celebrations, like the Harvest Festival that we held in September? Should this (or something like this) be a regular / annual event? How will this affect the farm operations, and how much should farm operations be compromised or curtailed in the interest of maintaining the farm parcel as a venue for this type of an event?
- What level of public access (recreational walking, cross-country skiing) is acceptable? Can it connect to any trails beyond the farm itself?
- Are there wildlife corridors that cross the farm property? Can they (should they) be preserved?
- How important is the historic pedigree of the farm and its existing buildings? What is the appropriate commitment to historic preservation of the farm buildings and their present relationships to one another?
- What is an optimum working farm environment? What does it look like? How productive can it be?

**Please Join Us! RSVP to Steve Dunn --- 549-3799.  
Your call will help us plan for a proper lunch and refreshments.**