Lynne Pease

From: Elizabeth Ellis [kidsatlast@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 11:29 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm

Dear Selectmen,

I am writing to request that the selectmen follow the recommendation of the Busa Land Use Committee and allow community farming as the main activity at Busa Farm. I do not support low income housing at Busa Farm. I think there is a need to have it remain as a farm moreso than for any other purpose, no matter how worthy. Also I would guess that the water table is too high and that any houses built there would have water in their basements.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Ellis

Lynne Pease

From: Jasmina Jancic [jasminajancic@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 11:33 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm land use

I am writing to express my deepest concerns over the latest proposal to build 8 units along Lowell Street, which would render a significant portion of tillable land unusable and therefore jeopardize the feasibility of a self-sustaining community farm which we so strongly support.

Busa Farm and our involvement in the farm come up in conversations on a nearly daily basis. I am proud of the farm, of the education that it has provided to me and to my young children, and most of all I am very grateful for the delicious, local, affordable food that we harvested at the farm for the last 3 years. It has sustained us for entire summers without buying any produce (except for fruit) at a supermarket! Words could not express my sorrow over the potential loss of this resource for our family and for the entire community.

I encourage you with all my heart to consider the dual use proposal, as recommended by BLUPC based on overwhelming feedback from all of us that support farm use for this land. This would preserve the farm as much as possible, and provide this community the much needed connection to the land, sustainable living practices and the food that it produces. Today more than ever, this type of resources is in an extremely valuable resource, and the whole country is turning toward local and sustainable food production. Don't let this farm be the exception recorded in history books!

In the name of my children, my family and the many, many people who share my feelings about the farm, I plead with you to consider farming as the top most priority for this land, and preserve this gem for this and many generations to come!

With warmest regards,
Jasmina

Lynne Pease

From: Christopher White [mr.christopher.white@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 11:41 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please Honor the BLUPC's Recommendation

Hello Selectmen,

It is paramount that Lexington Selectmen listen to the Busa Land Use Committee's (BLUPC) recommendation, as it is in the best interest to have a sustainable farm that benefits its community.

Please do not build property on this land and leave it in its current state allowing use that can be cultivated as a part of a CSA assisting those impoverished through education and provision of food.

Please vote in favor of the BLUPC's recommendation to use the Busa Land as a farm.

Best wishes,

Christopher White

--

Christopher H. White
Mr.Christopher.White@gmail.com
W: 978-837-4850
C: 781-698-6025

Lynne Pease

From: Jane Hammer [janemhammer@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 4:43 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: perfect opportunity in East Lexington

Dear Selectmen,
There is a wonderful and rare opportunity to create a welcoming, beautiful gateway to East Lexington--one that is not merely a facade, but a real demonstration of what Lexington is. Imagine those entering Lexington immediately recognizing a town that values its history and its innovation, a town that is all about people working together to educate and nourish their young people and support their elders with cultural opportunity and well-maintained resources.

Alternatively, those driving into town via Lowell Street might only notice the Lexington line because that is where the Arlington Reservoir recreational space ends and another row of houses begins.

In the first scenario, Lexington would have an enduring and remarkable demonstration of how the town's decision makers engaged in a groundbreaking, inclusive, and thorough land use decision process. It would show very obviously how a diverse population is benefiting from the result. Museums are nice, but a real working landscape that engages the past and the future--that is truly worth visiting and worth our pride.

Busa Farm is a wonderful opportunity sitting in your laps, practically on a silver platter. It is so unusual that the land use option favored most by the widest diversity of people all over town is also the choice of the immediate abutters and neighborhood, and is also the least cost to the town!!

Give yourselves and Lexington the best outcome, the clearest reward of this process by taking care that the decisions you make about affordable housing don't compromise the wonderful agreement you have in front of you. Nobody wants a half-baked plan, a could-have-been scenario, for the community farm, one that flies in the face of what you yourselves have said. You have expressed concern about how such a small farm could sustain itself. Experienced farmers and town officials in our immediate region have verified and can attest with their experience that the business plan as presented by Lex Farm is one option that could really work. If you decrease the acreage, or the access, or the marketability (by erasing the view), then you will really compromise the results of all your hard work and excellent process.

Affordable housing is one way to support a diverse citizenry in town. However, in this case, those 8 units (that is, some affordability for 8 families) are not the highest and best use for low and middle income families (or anyone else in the neighborhood or town) and are not the use intended by the Community Preservation Act. The potential of the farm to create recreational and educational opportunities and healthy food would immediately benefit hundreds of families in Lexington, many low income. And because Lexington is a nationally and internationally significant tourist and research hub, our efforts here would also ripple out across the nation, as it serves to encourage similar enterprise in other communities.

This is Lexington's chance to embrace the future (and your own lawyers have said it is perfectly legal): time to try the mixed use approach and let the real Lexington--remarkable history coupled with vibrant innovation-- to shine on. Please don't squander this opportunity by just

going along with what's been done in the recent decades. Please consider the past and future well beyond our time, as well as the wishes of the current citizens of Lexington as a whole.

Respectfully,

Jane Hammer
Neighbor, parent, educator, activist, business owner

Lynne Pease

From: Norma Wyse [norma.wyse@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 5:53 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please honor the recommendation of your select committee

Dear Selectmen--

I would strongly urge you to plan for affordable housing on the Busa Farm property that in a way that also integrates the farming use of the land. A minimum of 5 cultivable acres is needed for the farm to be able to fulfill its mission as an economically self-sustaining and full-fledged community farm which can provide CSA shares, educational programs for youth and adults, and food for low income residents. The current plan proposed by LexHAB, as I understand it, takes out of cultivation a significant portion of tillable land, which would make it impossible for the community farm to be viable economically.

Please reconsider and take into account the firm recommendation of the Busa Land Use Proposal Committee.

Norma Wyse

26 Parker St.

Lexington, MA 024321

**Busa Land Use Committee recommendation:*

"6.7 Final Statement

The Busa Land Use Proposal Committee is enthusiastic about its support for a community farm. We believe this is an exciting and unique opportunity for the Town of Lexington to embrace both its past and its future, and to respond to the desires of a currently underserved population. The majority also support affordable housing on this site, in a modest, integrated way, if it is compatible with the farm operation. Two members also support an athletic field, under appropriate conditions.

Our recommendation is based on this site, its distinct soils, its existing infrastructure, its ecological context, an overwhelming demand for farming in Lexington, and the desire of the members of the BLUPC to see this land benefit the residents of Lexington."

Lynne Pease

From: William Sears [wlmsears@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 5:55 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: BUSA Farm
Attachments: PC302214.JPG

Dear Selectmen,

I am writing to request that you honor the recommendation of the Busa Land Use Proposal. The farm, which is in part of Lexington where I live and commute by bicycle, is an important part of Lexington's heritage. In addition to being consistent with the long term needs for local food, the farm provides scenic rural views that have an important restorative value and provide a connection to our past. Lower cost housing could be provided by other means, including finding way to reduce the number of tear-downs that turn into McMansions. This would have less impact on the town as a whole.

Again, please honor the recommendation of your committee.

William Sears
Precinct 1.

Lynne Pease

From: Katharine Mockett [skyecatriona612@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 6:58 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa farm

Please use this land as a community farm, as recommended by your committee. I am not in agreement of the proposal to build housing on this site.

We need a community farm and Busa farm is our last chance.

Here is a copy of what the recommendation sent to you:

**Busa Land Use Committee recommendation:*
"6.7 Final Statement
The Busa Land Use Proposal Committee is enthusiastic about its support for a community farm. We believe this is an exciting and unique opportunity for the Town of Lexington to embrace both its past and its future, and to respond to the desires of a currently underserved population. The majority also support affordable housing on this site, in a modest, integrated way, if it is compatible with the farm operation. Two members also support an athletic field, under appropriate conditions.
Our recommendation is based on this site, its distinct soils, its existing infrastructure, its ecological context, an overwhelming demand for farming in Lexington, and the desire of the members of the BLUPC to see this land benefit the residents of Lexington."

Katharine Mockett
14 Glen Road South
Lexington

Lynne Pease

From: Holly Pearson [hollypearson538@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:20 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Buas Farm

I urge you to follow the recommendations of your own select committee. Keep the Farm viable.

Sincerely,
Holly Pearson

Lynne Pease

From: Anna Watson [watsonam@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:26 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm

Dear Lexington Selectmen,

We are an Arlington family who loves Busa Farm. We have a CSA with the farm, love seeing the fields in all the different seasons as we walk around the reservoir, and wish for residents in both Lexington and Arlington that the farm remain functioning for the future of all of us. Please be so kind as to consider the ever-unfolding benefits of green space and locally-grown food in terms of community building, education for children, youth, and adults, and so many other benefits to our neighboring towns. Please move forward to protect and cherish this gem of Lexington.

Thank you very much for reading our letter.

Sincerely,

Anna, Riley and Liam Watson

Lynne Pease

From: Tina Jaillet [tkjaillet62@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 2:12 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa farm

Dear Selectman,
Please consider the The Busa Land Use Proposal Committee's ideas:
"We believe this is an exciting and unique opportunity for the Town of Lexington to embrace both its past and its future, and to respond to the desires of a currently underserved population. The majority also support affordable housing on this site, in a modest, integrated way, if it is compatible with the farm operation. Two members also support an athletic field, under appropriate conditions.
Our recommendation is based on this site, its distinct soils, its existing infrastructure, its ecological context, an overwhelming demand for farming in Lexington, and the desire of the members of the BLUPC to see this land benefit the residents of Lexington."
Sincerely,
Tina Jaillet

Lynne Pease

From: Frances Wentworth [frances.wentworth@rcn.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 4:27 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa farm

Dear Selectmen,

Please use the Busa farm as farm land, not as a development project.

F. Wentworth

Lynne Pease

From: Don Falkenstein [dfalk7@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 4:35 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please preserve Busa Farm entirely for farming

Dear Selectmen,

I'm writing to express my support for preserving the Busa Farm entirely as a community farm. Our town's remaining farm land cannot be replaced or relocated. Housing and athletic facilities can be built elsewhere. Please save Busa Farm!

Don Falkenstein
41 Percy Road
Lexington, MA 02421

Lynne Pease

From: f bridger [fbridger1@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 4:45 PM

To: selectmen's

Subject: BUSA farm

The latest plan for affordable housing units on Lowell St will make the use of the farm land much more difficult. Please consider a more modest housing plan if at all. There are many spots in Lexington that can be used for affordable housing but very little usable farm land
Frances Bridger
Vynebrooke Village

Lynne Pease

From: Sonia DeMarta [soniademarta@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 7:36 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please honor the recommendations of your committee

I am writing to encourage the Selectmen to honor the recommendations of their own select committee. This committee spent much time and energy in listening to the people of Lexington, and taking into account many different factors in recommending the best use for the Busa land.
We need to keep it a working community farm. It is the least costly option for Lexington, and it is the option that its citizens have chosen.

Sonia DeMarta

Lynne Pease

From: Sara Chase [SBCprescon@rcn.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:26 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa land use

Dear Selectmen:

The proposed number of housing units, and their location--8 units in 4 duplexes on Lowell Street--is greatly disadvantageous to optimum use of the land suitable for farming, and to the look of the primary street side of the land as devoted to farming. They would be in effect a "wall" blocking the remaining good crop land from view, and putting too much shade in the wrong places at the wrong times for agricultural productivity.

How about building 2 duplexes (2) on the side street only? Less traffic congestion, far more productive farm usage of land good to grow crops.
Or, 2 duplexes (4 units) clustered one facing the other, using the corner rectangle?

Sara B. Chase
4 Peacock Farm Road
Lexington

Precinct 2

Lynne Pease

From: Jsmaeck@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2012 9:06 AM

To: selectmen's

Subject: Busa Farm proposal

Dear Selectmen,
I support a combination of affordable housing and a community farm on the Busa Farm site. However, I feel that a more modest proposal than LexHab's current proposal for 8 units would be more appropriate. Please ask LexHab to provide a more modest plan.
Jessie Maeck
11 Utica St.

Lynne Pease

From: Priscilla sanville [sanville@comcast.net]

Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2012 9:46 AM

To: selectmen's

Subject: Arlington resident who considers Busa farm part of the ommunity

I am writing to voice my concern that Busa farm will still be able to function as the productive farm and thriving part of many of our communities in the area besides Lexington one you take the up-coming vote?
I would hope if you do any building for housing that this is very thought through and this is not a way to reduce the farm or
If this quote from one of your selectmen is true.... it is done "in a modest, integrated way, if it is compatible with the farm operation."*
Please be thoughtful and careful as you are working with a business that is a community organization, that people shop there from many places. Busa farms is hub for community and healthy food and gardening.
Please ask yourselves, can we really do this with integrity and care?.....complete this project "in a modest, integrated way, if it is compatible with the farm operation."*
If you do this know many are watching and take I hope you take this quote from one of your selectmen pretty seriously.
Thank you,
Priscilla Sanville
(Resident of Arlington, former Lexington public school educator and educator in cambridge, MA)
Priscilla H. Sanville
sanville@comcast.net

Lynne Pease

From: Christine Zendeh [czendeh@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:22 AM
To: selectmen's
Cc: szendeh@rch.com
Subject: Housing Tonight

Dear Selectmen,

Please honor your commitment to Busa Farm and the legacy of a working community farm for generations to come. It is crucial that any housing plan does not impinge on the Busa Farm cultivation area and allows the proper amount of land for the community farm purposes. DO NOT SUPPORT ANY LEX HAB HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET THOSE AGREED UPON STANDARDS.

SINCERELY,

Christine Zendeh
42 Baker Ave.
Lexington, MA 02421

Lynne Pease

From: MARK and DIANE BLEIER [bleiboys@rcn.com]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:03 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm land use

Dear Selectmen,
Although I have signed petitions regarding the use of Busa Farm land, this is the first time that I am writing about it.

I believe that building more low income and affordable housing in Lexington will benefit our town, but that there are several places where such housing can be built. There are fewer, if any, other places where a viable community farm can be developed. Should the farm not work out for some reason, the housing option would remain a viable one in the future. Once the land has been utilized for housing, it would be much more difficult or impossible to ever again convert it for use as a viable farm.

As you are no doubt aware, many citizens in the US, including within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in our town, have been becoming increasingly cynical about government, particularly regarding whether officials act "for the people". I thought that the process of determining the use of the Busa Farm land was supposed to be an open process, and that the purpose of the Busa Land Use Committee you appointed was to listen to the voices of the community and make recommendations based upon that. It now appears that there is a real danger the voices of the community are going to be ignored.
The strong consensus of the community was that the land use should include viable space for a community-oriented farm (this would require an absolute minimum of 5 arable, accessible acres and space for necessary farm buildings). If you choose a plan that does not allow for this, thereby ignoring all but a small minority of the participants in the Busa Committee's efforts, then my waning respect for and belief in government will be further diminished.

Please heed the strong recommendations of the Busa Land Use Committee.

Respectfully,

Mark Bleier
3 Sheila Rd.

Lynne Pease

From: Amy Sbihli [asbihli@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 1:02 PM

To: selectmen's

Subject: Busa Farm community farm

To Whom it may concern,
Please honor the recommendation of their own select committee to keep the Busa Farm as a community farm.
Amy Sbihli

Lynne Pease

From: susan brighton [susan.brighton@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:04 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm Property

It is time for the selectmen to abide by the recommendation of their own committee and use Busa Farm as a community farm. Please STOP looking for ways around this. If the Community Farm does not work out in the future, you can go for plan B.

Please support the recommendation of your committee and make Busa Farm a community farm.

susan brighton

Lynne Pease

From: Bryan Falchuk [Bryan.Falchuk@beazley.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:50 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm

Dear Selectmen of Lexington,

I'm a resident who lives near the Busa Farm land that is under consideration for housing and other projects (I'm at 29 Summer Street). When my wife and I chose to move to Lexington 4 years ago as we were expecting our first child, a key draw of the town was the balance it had struck and protected for so long between development and open or undeveloped land. It is a piece of the heritage of our town, and a key part of what sets us apart from or neighbor towns. It is part of the foundation of our values around education, history and what I think is a more peaceful atmosphere than many suburbs in the area have become. I grew up in Newton, and the feel between Newton and Lexington is markedly different, and why we did not want to look in Newton.

I understand the Busa Land Use Committee has recommended a more restrained development plan for the land. While I would so much prefer to see no development of the land over and above its use for farming - community or commercial - I urge you to think of the current residents of Lexington and our needs over development for the sake of people who haven't committed to this town.

Thank you for both reading this and for your service to our town.

All the best,
Bryan Falchuk
Bryan Falchuk
Beazley USA
Sent from my BlackBerry

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Lynne Pease

From: Anne Frymer [awake98@rcn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:47 AM
To: selectmen's
Cc: Anne Frymer
Subject: Number of affordable housing units at Busa Farm location

'm an affordable housing advocate with a practical view. I just googled the street views for the six affordable townhouses at 42-52 Garfield St to compare with the similarly sized two floor stand alone units presented by LexHab at last night''s meeting.

Even before looking at the Garfield units I questioned if there would be enough parking for the proposed Busa Farm location. I think there would be two parking spaces for each Busa unit,
right? If not, already there are too few parking spaces. On Garfield St it would seem that
there is a parking shed next to the end unit, one space per unit,. And of course parking on
both sides of Garfield St, especially as the other side is a ball field.

I think that four units is enough for the Busa location. Four units would allow extra space for either a parking shed or the equivalent of three parking spaces per unit. Why three?
If there are two adults in a unit, both will own a car, if possible. Both adults might be working, or one working and one needing a car for children's transport. The third parking space is for the any number of family, car vans, VNA, meals-on-wheels, or other visitors that normal families see in a week. There might even be one DI space.

Unlike the Garfield property, the Busa property does not allow or encourage on street parking.
Too dangerous.

Yours,
Anne Frymer
64 Asbury St,
Lexington, MA
(781) 862-3799 Mailbox 2

Lynne Pease

From: Fran Ludwig [fludwig12@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 11:49 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Plans for Busa Land

I attended the last Selectmen's meeting and was heartened to hear that there was flexibility in the number of affordable housing units that you are considering. Scott Carter's energy efficient plans are very attractive, but I agree with Peter Kelly that the loss of the farm view should be a consideration. (I'm thinking--what would the Chiesa land on Adams St. be like if houses lined the road in front of the field? Every time I drive by, I'm grateful that it remains a meadow.)

I hope you have been able to consider some alternatives to building the affordable units on Lowell St. Has the multi-use suggestion (barn with affordable units plus another building near the current greenhouse and farm stand) been seriously considered? It sounded like the sewer connection would not be a problem. Another suggestion was to purchase a house on Lowell St. and rehab it. Given the short time line for a decision, I sincerely hope that other options can be discussed with in a collaborative way with interested parties. The fact that the plan for the 4 duplex unit on Lowell St. is already drafted and costed out should not give it priority.

I would like to see a vibrant community farm with 2-4 affordable units integrated in a cluster of buildings near the current farmstand.

Thanks for all you do for the town,
Fran Ludwig
19 Wyman Rd.

Lynne Pease

From: cynthia tollen [ctollen@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 12:39 PM
To: selectmen's; cynthia tollen
Subject: FW: Busa Farm

From: ctollen@hotmail.com
To: ctollen@hotmail.com; alexp@mit.edu; selectmen@lexington.ma.gov
Subject: Busa Farm
Date: Wed, 8 Feb 2012 12:13:27 -0500

To the Selectmen of the Town of Lexington:

PLease honor the recommendation of the committee that was appointed to study the issue of land usage of Busa Farm.

Please do not block the view from the street and put affordable housing on a location that cannot be duplicated in the entire town.

The Busa Farm, while in Lexington, also serves the greater local communities as a working farm and educational experience.

ONCE IT IS DEVELOPED IT WILL NEVER BE THE SAME PASTORAL LANDSCAPE THAT IS SO MUCH IN DEMAND.
PLEASE, DON'T DESTROY THE EVER SHRINKING FARMLAND THAT GIVES LEXINGTON ITS SPECIAL CHARM AND HISTORY.

I bought my house on Peacock Farm Road years ago precisely for the land, and the landscape.

When your children and grandchildren and generations to come ask why you destroyed the farming community in Lexington, what will you tell them?

Please, Lexington is large enough to find many other sites for affordable housing that do not threaten this vital part of our landscape and heritage.
Do not choose to benefit a handful of residents over the majority of residents' wishes to keep the land as a working farm.

What are eight units of housing compared with the overwhelming need for open space? Please, please, do not destroy this special place.

Cynthia Tollen
Owner, 9 Peacock Farm Road
Lexington, Ma. 02421

Lynne Pease

From: Alex T Prengel [alexp@MIT.EDU]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 5:47 PM
To: selectmen's
Cc: alexp@mit.edu
Subject: Busa Farm

Dear Selectmen:

I am a Lexington homeowner and am quite distressed to hear of the plans to put affordable housing on Busa Farm. Please do not do this! There is almost no open land left in eastern Massachusetts and every bit left is precious. Once it is gone it's gone forever.

I'm sure you can find some other location in Lexington for affordable housing.

Alex Prengel
Owner, 9 Peacock Farm Road
Lexington

Lynne Pease

From: Paul Breimyer [paul.breimyer@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 3:00 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Land Decision

As a resident of Lexington, I strongly urge the Selectmen to pursue a plan for the Busa property that enables as much continued farming as possible, as indicated in the 'Busa Land Use Committee recommendation'.

Respectfully,
Paul Breimyer

Lynne Pease

From: Gay McGarvie [trudith2002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 9:37 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm
Attachments: Board of Selectmen Concerns.docx; Board of Selectmen6.2011.docx

To Mr. Manz and the Board of Selectmen;
My name is Gay Busa McGarvie I live in my family home (the farmhouse that was
purchased with the farm by the Busa family)at 48 Lowell St. and in my parents home at
36 Lowell St. for 59 of my 61 years.

I have heard of a proposal for mixed use housing to be built at the Busa Farm property between 48 Lowell St. and
60 Lowell St. I would like to let you know that I oppose this proposal, as I think it would not blend with the residential nieghborhood. I would welcome housing being built, such as two-family dwellings that would fit in with the single family dwellings that already exist in this nieghborhood. I am opposed to any mixed use buildings built on any part of Busa Farm land.
I would like to remind you that when my brothers and I agreed to sell to the Town or Lexington that the majority of the land would remain open space. I am attaching a previous letter sent to the board, as well as another letter that I indended for later, when your decision was made.

I felt it may help you reach the right decision

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Gay McGarvie

Board of Selectmen

Thoughts and concerns

I would like to call attention to the placement of the farmstand and road, this road is not a true road it is part of house lot. The Parking lot is also part of the house lot. And the farmstand is too close to property line. (there is an acoustical value from the farm being in a valley the projects any conversation in the area of the farmstand and parking lot to the house, and it sounds like someone is inside talking rather than outside.) There are no restrooms at the farmstand and the existing building is in dire need of repair and has no indoor plumping and bathrooms.

Looking for respectable boundery of space around house lot. In my opinion if this were to become a community farm the existing buildings are far too close for my liking. I have put up with the usually traffic and annoyances because I was part owner, since that is no longer the case I would appreciate a reasonable distance away from the hubbub, noise factor of running a farm.

Would appreciate consideration of noise factor to any decision made.

Would appreciate a significant amount of space between house lot and farm area.

Would not like to see it the space behind the neighbors 3 properties used as a congregation area or picnic, rest area, as shown in the Lex-Farm presentation. Would like to maintain it as is, open with the roadway to the back as a boundary and I would also appreciate it if no more trees or bushes be added that would block view of open space, blocking any views I already have and appreciate, although, a buffer would be appreciated to the side of the house where the parking lot is.

Would like to adopt the rock garden and area abutting my backyard and respectfully maintain it in memory of my parents and the Busa Bros.

I am also concerned about the existing telephone poles and wires that cross over my property.

To add <u>another</u> recreation field would add to the traffic and noise factor already in existence, which is substantial, with the summer beach area at the Arlington Res. and the summer camp activities at Lexington Christian Academy.

These are my issues since I am no longer apart of the farming business and am now an abutter. Would like respect for my transition and privacy.

It has been a difficult transition and would appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Looking forward to coexist in this new format.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Gay McGarvie

)ear Board of Selectmen:

;ince the BLUPC has submitted their final recommendation. I would like to bring a few things to your attention.

;ince I am no longer apart of the farming business and am now an abutter. Would appreciate consideration for my ransition and privacy.

t has been a difficult transition and would appreciate your consideration in this matter.

would like to note that the existing dirt road alongside the existing stand and my house lot is part of my house lot, anc eaves roughly a small car space of passing next to the stand.

\lso, my lot line is 15ft into the parking lot from the side of the house. I am looking for a respectable boundaries ıround the house lot.

In my opinion if this were to become a community farm the existing buildings are too close for a compatable :oexistance. I have ignored the usually traffic and annoyances in running a business of this type because I was part)wner, since that is no longer the case I would appreciate a reasonable distance away from the noise factor of running ı farm or any plan for this property.

would also like to point out that the existing building is in dire need of repair and has no indoor plumping and)athrooms.

would also like to say that the parking lot being were it is people have been actuall able to stand and look into my :itchen window as we sit at our kitchen table. Living within a parking lot is a problem.

would also appreciate it if no more trees or bushes be added to form a buffer because it would block any views I ılready have and appreciate, although, a buffer would be appreciated to the side of the house where the parking lot is.

would like to adopt the rock garden and the area abutting my backyard and respectfully maintain it in memory of my)arents and the original Busa Brothers.

would like to suggest that the dirt road in front of the greenhouse facing the house lots become and imaginary ine/buffer zone between the private homes and the towns public plans for the property and that it be left as open ;pace.

\lso, to add another recreation field would add to the already existing traffic and noise, which is substantial with the ;ummer beach area at the Arlington Res. and the summer cap activities at Lexingto Christian Academy.

am looking forward to coexisting in this new format in whatever decision you make.

appreciate your time and consideration.

;hould you like to talk further I would like to meet in a private setting rather than an open forum.

:all or email me at. 781-860-7623 cell: 781-330—6469 trudith2002@yahoo.com

'hank you for your time and efforts

;incerely, Gay(Trudy) Busa Mcgarvie.

Lynne Pease

From: Rene Tio [tor@att.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 10:40 PM
To: selectmen's
Cc: Kate Saenko
Subject: LexHAB proposal for Lowell St

Dear Selectmen

As abutters of the Busa Farm and residents of 21 Lowell Street, we are strongly opposed to the current LexHAB plan for construction of houses that would block the entire viewscape on Lowell Street.

Our opposition is to any plan that significantly changes the serenity and density of the neighborhood. We urge the Selectmen to follow the recommendations of the BLUPC for a community farm and at most two units of afforadable housing.

Sincerely
Kate and Rene TIo
21 Lowell St

Lynne Pease

From: lex-tmma@yahoogroups.com on behalf of emcdonald@rcn.com
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 3:03 PM
To: lex-tmma@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [lex-tmma] Busa Farm Mixed Use Q&A

At last week's 2/27 Selectmen's meeting, the puzzle about how to site affordable housing on the Busa land without consuming valuable tillable land took center stage as the board grappled with the question of whether mixed use would present legal problems down the road (transcript below**). I asked the CPC office in Boston to help us identify mixed use CPA projects and resources that we might consult for more direction on this question (their reply directly below*).

Ellen McDonald, Pct. 4

*For more information about two community garden/farm projects funded with CPA in Newton and Northampton, click on the following links:

Angino Farm, Newton:
http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/

For more information on the CPA aspects of doing the above project, you can speak to the Newton Community Preservation Coordinator, Alice Ingerson. You can reach Alice at 617-796-1144 (w) or by email at aingerson@newtonma.gov

Bean and Allard Farms Property, Northampton:
http://www.growfoodnorthampton.com/

The CPC Coordinator for Northampton is Sarah LaValley (413) 587-1263 (w) or by email at:
slavalley@northamptonma.gov

The CPA project in Hamilton I was referring to is Firehouse Place. It has an affordable housing unit on top and below is a non-profit food bank. I think this project was done as a CPA historic preservation adaptive reuse project, which explains why a non-CPA use (food bank) is allowed below the housing unit.

--

**A transcript of the Selectmen meeting discussion around the mix use question appears below (and on LexMedia's 2/27/12 BOS/ On Demand video at 3:36). Frank Sandy (FS), Hank Manz (HM) and Janet Kern (JK) are the speakers.

FS: I guess I'm missing something, Mr. Chairman. Could you explain what the legal objections are to mixed use? Cuz we already have mixed use in Lexington, at Lexington Place, where we have commercial and residential...
HM: Lexington Place is not built with CPA funds.
FS: And why do CPA funds prevent mixed use? That's what I don't understand.
HM: Short form-- you have to define the building. You have to be able to divide it out and say "this part of the building, and hopefully the land on which it sits, was built with CPA funds and this is what it has to be used for now and all eternity" --affordable housing, in this case. We can't convert it to some other use later.
So if anything else should fail, the town, for instance...I don't expect the town to fail but if it did... the state has a vested interest in being able to step in and say "I am taking over this unit; we will run it." And it has to be a defined unit. And that is not only the bounds of the unit, so when you start mixing up the units, some of it town-owned, some of it town-owned but on open space, some of it town-owned but affordable

house, you run into problems. Now we had a presentation by two attorneys who kept saying things like, "this would be a very difficult thing, you'd really have to work hard with the state." It's an attractive idea, I understand, but I suspect it doesn't work all that well and when you start mixing things like storage of equipment, for instance, let's say it turned into a ball field, storage of equipment and housing, you get into even more problems.
FS: You said in order to do it, you'd have to work hard with the State. That doesn't mean you can't do it. Have you tried working with the State?
HM: To my ear, that's what they were saying to me.
FS: The state will not allow it?
HM: There is no strict prohibition. No. Ms. Kern?
JK: When town counsel was here, I specifically asked a question and I got a very clear answer. And the question I asked was, "Would it be possible to have an affordable housing deed restriction that accomplishes exactly what you're saying for affordable housing with a secondary use for farming or other use, a secondary use, and the answer I got was yes. So, you can go and replay the video.
HM: Oh I have, but you can't find me an example. My next question was, find me an example.
JK: That did not answer Mr. Sandy's question which was: is it legal?
HM: Oh, I answered it the same way. It's probably legal. No one can show me an example where it worked.

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Lynne Pease

From: lex-tmma@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Bijan Afshartous [biafshar@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 4:11 PM
To: lex-tmma@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [lex-tmma] Questions regarding Busa farm and afordable housing

Houses are built in Lexington in different locations. Now we are talking about building affordable housing
in Busa Farm. I suppose there are advantages to build them in Busa Farm instead of another location.

Here are my questions:

1. What are the advantages of building affordable housing in Busa Farm?

2. Can we build them in another location, and if not why not?

3. Are there any restriction as to where affordable housing can be built?

4. There is no question that selectmen are the decider regarding what happens to Busa Farm.

5. Having said that has town done any polling to see what is the opinion of Lexington residents regarding
building affordable housing in Busa Farm?

6. If majority of Lexinton residents oppose building in Busa Farm, does their opinions count?
I don't know if many people oppose building in Busa Farm, but quite a few are not for it.

4. If Busa farm is left as is with no housing built in it, and it doesn't work out as a farm, what will the town loose?

Bijan Afshartous, Pct 2

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Lynne Pease

From: kathleen rowe [kegrowe@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 12:09 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Land Use
Attachments: Letter to Selectmen.docx

Letter to the Selectman:

For over six years the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition (GWAC) has brought education about climate change and sustainable living to Lexington. We have been pleased that town government has actively sought to reduce municipal carbon emissions and has set goals for additional reductions in future years.

Therefore we are puzzled and disturbed by the reluctance of the Board of Selectmen to commit wholeheartedly to a community farm on the Busa property. Sustainable local agriculture is being embraced all over the country as one important response to the complex issues of climate change.

We believe a community farm would be an invaluable educational resource for Lexington children, to give them new skills in preparation to lead their lives in an inevitably changing and challenging world. In addition, several GWAC presentations have documented the ability of organically farmed soil to capture and hold carbon. Locally grown produce reduces the transportation cost of food, also reducing the emission of carbon dioxide.

Lexington has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve a 300 year old farm with 8 acres of fine rich soil for a community farm and it has a large cadre of enthusiastic citizens who are eagerly committed to making it work. We expected the Board of Selectmen to seize this opportunity and follow the recommendation of its own Busa Land Use Planning Committee, to use the land primarily for a farm. To fail to preserve this community farm would be a tragic mistake. If this land is developed it can never go back to being a farm. Let's save this farmland as a farm and start to prepare for a different world that is fast upon us.

Kathleen Rowe, Eileen Entin, Ricki Pappo, Ellen Frye, Paul Rubin for the
Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition

Lynne Pease

From: Fran Ludwig [fludwig12@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 4:07 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Decision?

To the Selectmen:

After attending the Feb. 29 meeting, I was surprised to hear that you were not able to approve the use of Busa farmland as a community farm with some affordable units at your March 5 meeting. From what I read in the Minuteman, there may still be some ambiguity on your part, even though you want to make a decision. I'm hoping when Hank Manz returns, you can move forward in making a decision that addresses today's needs.

In spite of the fact that my son was able to go to college because of the lacrosse skills he honed on Lexington's playing fields, I urge you to use the
the Busa land as a working, sustainable community farm with no sports fields. This means providing at least 5 acres for a farm unless we want to do regular fund raising as Newton does to support their farm. Here's why I advocate that substantial land be devoted to a farm. Since 1994, when my son graduated from LHS, the Earth has undergone measurable warming. More and more scientists have been convinced that this warming is a contributing factor to recent patterns of extreme weather around the world (perhaps including this strange winter) and that this is largely due to human activity. Warm days in March may be nice now, but rapid changes in ecosystems and melting icecaps are concerning in the long term.

In light of this, I strongly suggest that we take stock of what we most value in Lexington on the very largest scale. Several lectures and films sponsored by the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition have convinced me that soil that is organically farmed using specific techniques can be a substantial "sink" to absorb and hold carbon. Conscious management of the land for carbon storage is needed as part of our Sustainable Lexington effort. Such sequestration prevents carbon dioxide from contributing to climate change. In addition, a viable farm provides an opportunity for educating all citizens--young and old-- in how to lower our "carbon foodprint" (various aspects of food production contribute 20% or more to human produced greenhouse gases). I think a farm's contribution to environmental sustainability in Lexington should be a major factor in your decision.

The plan for 3 affordable units on Lowell St. presented by Carl Oldenberg seemed a good compromise to me. Blocking more of the viewscape is problematic at this point in time (imagine Chiesa farm fields with 4 buildings in front of them). I also heard a suggestion about purchasing and retrofitting the existing house next to Mr. Oldenberg's proposed structure to provide additional units (I believe this would be less costly than building from scratch). Is this still a consideration?

Thanks for the work you do for Lexington and your efforts to determine what is best for the long term benefit of Lexington.

Fran Ludwig
19 Wyman Rd.

Lynne Pease

From: Richard Jenson [richard.jenson@bc.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:04 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Land Use

My family has lived in Lexington since I was one, in 1948. We currently enjoy acres of athletic playing fields, but no community farm land. Our town wants this. Do the right thing.

Richard Jenson. LHS '65
46 Fern St.

Authored this on my iPad2 !

Lynne Pease

From: Liza Connolly [lizaconnolly@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:05 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: pls. vote for FARM land
Attachments: article re- codman farm visit .pages; ATT2758506.htm

Dear Selectman,

Twenty two meetings later, and the date of March 17th looms, as voting day for the Busa land.

I am a co-founder of **Kids Cooking Green.** We teach kids in Lexington and surrounding communities to value farm land, to preserve farm land, and to cook and eat locally grown food, as a viable means of protecting said land. We have taken our students on field trips to Lex. Goat Farm , abutting the Busa property, this Spring. The fact that there is this great farm land right in our town, is a source of pride for these kids. They have an opportunity to explore the goats and chickens and learn the benefits they offer the soil....100% natural fertilizer!!! These animals live n harmony with nature...an invaluable lesson to teach children.

Please be aware that farm land in America is disappearing, at a time where we really need to be preserving it. Our Lexington heritage is agrarian. Lets not lose this piece of Lexington history ; lets create a dynamic community farm that can feed low income families, give opportunities for children to grow veggies and work in harmony with the land.

Inorder to create a community farm such as Codman in Lincoln, a minimum of 5 tillable acres is necessary , plus open space to accommodate farm infrastructure.

Please allow some affordable housing, if necessary, but make the priority preserving this land for farming...Once farm land is gone it is gone for GOOD! what a tragedy that would be.

Sincerely,

Liza Connolly
31 Wachusett Drive
Lexington, Ma.

PS. I have attached a short piece I wrote about the beauty and benefits of a Codman Farm field trip with our Kids cooking Green students. I urge you to read it so that you too can understand the value of preserving farm land and creating a community farm for this treasrued town of Lexington.

Lynne Pease

From: AnneE319@aol.com

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:06 AM

To: selectmen's

Subject: Busa Farm

I want to write to urge Lexington to vote to use the Busa Farm land for farming in the future, and to consider the impact of this site on the neighborhood and in particular the Reservoir.

Busa Farm has been a nice gateway to Lexington, and offers a nice country feel to this end of Lexington. It is more than precious open space, it has a long history of farming that has enhanced the lives of the neighborhood and in particular our children. Once housing or other uses such as a soccer field are in place, it is nearly impossible to go back.

The path around the Reservoir is very close to the Busa property line, and housing or a soccer field would severely detract from the current feeling of walking in nature, both from a visual point of view, and with the soccer field, from increased noise. In addition, drainage, particularly with a soccer field, could easily impact the Reservoir and paths. I am not sure if a soccer field is still being considered, but if it is, has there been any work to study the ecological impact on the Res, to understand drainage impact,runoff from pesticides or fertilizers with grass, or the impact of turf on the Res? The health of our children and dogs who swim in the Reservoir must be considered.

More than a few units of housing, and definitely a soccer field would put way too much stress on the neighborhood and destroy it's current beauty. Please vote to have farming as the predominant use for the property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Ehlert
Westminster Ave.

Lynne Pease

From: Norma Wyse [norma.wyse@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:13 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please vote to preserve the Busa land as a farm

Dear Selectmen--

I would like to add my voice to those strongly urging you to vote to use the Busa land as a community farm with a minimum of five tillable acres, with the rest of the open space used for farm infrastructure. If you divide this land up for other uses such as recreation fields, there will be too little land left for a viable community farm.

Thank you for all you do for our town--

Norma E. Wyse
26 Parker Street

Lynne Pease

From: Alison Abdu [alisonabdu@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:24 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm

Dear Lexington Selectmen,

I am writing to strongly request that you vote for a community farm on the current Busa farm land with a minimum of five tillable acres and leave the rest of the open space dedicated to farm infrastructure. I also encourage you to preserve the open viewscape along Lowell Street by keeping the housing units to a minimum.

Retaining this acreage as farm land will have many benefits for the community, not the least of which is maintaining open space which is now in short demand in Lexington, and as farmland to preserve what is left of the Town's rural past and future.

Thank you,

Alison Abdu
4 Bryant Road
Lexington, MA 02420
781-862-4294

Lynne Pease

From: Priscilla sanville [sanville@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:45 AM

To: selectmen's

Subject: Busa farm

Please vote on March 19, to preserve Busa Farm as a Community Farm! I urge you in this time of hard times to keep this wonderful farm that so many of us have consider part of our community. I would wonder why this would even be a hard decision but it is sure is being dragged out.
Please vote for Busa farm.
An Arlington resident and former Lexington Public school emplyee.
Thanks you.
Priscilla H. Sanville
sanville@comcast.net

Lynne Pease

From: nancymgardner@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:47 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa/ Community Farm

Dear Board of Selectmen,

On Monday, March 19th, please vote to preserve Busa Farm as a Community Farm.

Thanks,
Nancy Gardner (precinct 1)

Lynne Pease

From: stephen ervin [stephen.ervin@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:02 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please help ensure a Community Farm @ Busa

3/12/12
To Lexington Selectmen;

Please conclude the now-years-long process of deliberation by confirming the finding of the BLUPC that Busa Farm should stay a Farm; and help bring about the dream many of us share: of an educational, recreational, sustainable, productive, comunity-run, community farm in Lexington, such as the citizens in a number of our surrounding towns enjoy.

Thank You,

StephenErvin
8 Wheeler Rd
Lexington MA 02420

Lynne Pease

From: peter klausmeyer [pbklaus@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:06 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa

Hi---
Please do all you can to preserve the BUSA property as farm-land.
In a community of wall to wall houses and light industry, open fields are a rarity. And, we need fresh vegetables! Sincerely,

Peter Klausmeyer
31 Grassland Street
Lexington, MA 02421

Lynne Pease

From: Ann Schauffler [ann.schauffler@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:20 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm Land Use

Dear Selectmen:

I am writing to urge you to vote on the Busa Land Use on Monday March 19th.

I urge you to vote to keep it usable farmland, as was recommended by *a committee formed by you,* after months of careful study and investigation from multiple environmental and community standpoints.

You have been presented a viable plan for using this land as a community farm, keeping a minimum of five tillable acres and the remaining open space dedicated to farm infrastructure. In addition, their plan includes the important point of preserving the open view-scape along Lowell Street by keeping the housing units to a minimum. I urge you to vote to accept their well-thought out proposal.

As a resident of this community for 30 years, I urge you to vote to use this land in a considerate way, opening the way for possibilities in community education, participation, as well as providing the benefit of having local produce from our community farm!! This works successfully in communities around us, and we in Lexington should be proud to keep a working farm here, a place which historically was a town of many farms. This is sacred land.

Make us proud by keeping the farm-- and honor the creative, dynamic spirit of this town and its history.

Thank you,
Ann Schauffler
43 Baskin Road

Lynne Pease

From: Ellen Epstein [ellen@overallmusic.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:22 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm decision

Dear Selectmen of Lexington -

I'm writing to urge you to *follow the recommendations of your own advisory committee* and vote for a community farm with a minimum of five tillable acres and the rest of the open space dedicated to farm infrastructure. It is also important to preserve the open viewscape along Lowell Street by keeping the housing units to a minimum.

What an unfortunate waste it would be to use this valuable farm land for any other purpose! Let playing fields be located elsewhere - - this land has been farmland for generations - - now more than ever we need sources of local, sustainable food production, with community involvement and education across lines of age and ability. Whereas playing fields will serve one population only, a working community farm can be a valuable resource for everyone in the area.

Please please please preserve Busa Farm!

Sincerely,
Ellen Epstein

Lynne Pease

From: Shelley Quezada [quezada@noblenet.org]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:05 AM
To: selectmen's
Cc: fernando.quezada@rcn.com
Subject: Consider use of Busa Land

Dear Selectmen,

In light of no decision made about the rest of use of open land on the Busa parcel at your last meeting, I urge you to consider keeping the housing units as voted on to a minimum as well as allowing an open view onto Lowell Street.

Please consider voting to place a community farm with at least five acres on this land at the March 19th selectman's meeting.

There is tremendous support for this effort among my friends and neighbors in our town; Much effort has gone into preserving open spaces and conservation land and this decision would create a wonderful amenity that could be used by people of all ages.

There is a strong local interest in community farms as part of a healthy lifestyle and this use of land that has been traditionally used for farming for more than 100 years is an appropriate direction for our town to take.

Thank you,

Shelley Quezada
26 Blossomcrest Rd
Lexington

Lynne Pease

From: Katharine Mockett [skyecatriona612@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:17 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa farm....community farm

To all selectmen,

Please put aside at least 5 acres of land for the establishment of a community farm. This is probably our last chance to have a community farm in Lexington.

If you look at the success of our local farmers market and the continued need for people to want to buy food that is grown locally, it makes even more sense for Lexington to have a community farm.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katharine A Mockett
14 Glen Rd. S.
Lexington

Lynne Pease

From: Janet Rahilly [gojan@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:24 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm

Please vote to preserve the Busa Farm open land as a community farm.
Thank you.

Janet and Paul Rahilly
25 Theresa Avenue

Sent from my iPad

Lynne Pease

From: Jane [jsheena@rcn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:24 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm use.

Dear Selectman , I have been following the discussion about the land use closely.I have lived in this area for 15 years in both Arlington and Lexington and have always respected and admired the small farm, a throwback to previous times,that still provided such fresh produce and a farm that can be observed by passers by,especially children.
I urge you to follow the recommendation of the Busa Land Use Proposal Committee and leave a 5 acre area of tillable land plus room for farm buildings for the continued use and enrichment of the community of Lexington.
Thank you,Jane Sheena

Lynne Pease

From: Anna Watson [watsonam@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:29 AM
To: selectmen's
Cc: Duck Watson
Subject: Busa Farm

Dear Selectmen,

Thank you for your hard work and soul searching around the decidedly complicated issues brought up by the current situation with Busa Farm.

We are writing to urge you to allow Busa Farm to remain as a working farm, which is and will remain of inestimable value to Lexington and surrounding communities. There should be a minimum of five tillable acres with the rest of the open space for farm buildings and a farm stand. Locally-grown food is nutritious and a local farm is educational and adds to the health and well-being of our neighborhoods.

Please vote FOR our precious and irreplaceable local farm!

Thank you very much,

Anna, Laurie, Riley and Liam Watson
200 Spring Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476

Lynne Pease

From: sueann1128@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:39 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Save Busa Farms!!!!

As a resident of Lexington, and a community organic farmer, I absolutely believe that we should have as many sustainable farms as possible!!
Not only does it benefit us nutritionally, but it is extremely important to have local and fresh produce!!
Do not vote to shut down Busa Farms!!!!!!

Very sincerely,

Susan Leavitt
5 Journey's End Lane
Lexington, MA 02421

781-771-9668

Lynne Pease

From: frances gillespie [fgilles02420@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:54 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Keep the farm as a farm!

Dear Selectmen,

I'm writing - once again - to urge you to follow the advice of your own appointed committee and maintain the majority of the land at the Busa Farm property as a community farm.

Attendees at every meeting have overwhelmingly voiced their support for this proposal. The poll taken by the Minuteman showed the same results. This is the choice the citizens of Lexington have made, and made clear to you time after time.

My son plays lacrosse; my daughter plays soccer and basketball. But we have many acres in town already dedicated solely to recreation. The town website lists approximately 54 parcels of town land set aside for recreational purposes. We have NO community farm, unlike many comparable surrounding communities; this is a feature that will benefit everyone of our citizens - especially those that don't use the recreation properties.

Please keep this valuable piece of land as a farm, with sufficient space to make it work - no less than five tillable acres. Don't destroy the only organically maintained farmland we have left by turning it into (yet more) ball fields.

Thank you,
Frances Gillespie
47 Gleason Rd

Lynne Pease

From: Frances Wentworth [frances.wentworth@rcn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:12 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa farm

Dear Selectmen,

I attended the meeting on March 5. I found it curious that no one mentioned parking lots and traffic. Playing fields do not just exist in a vacuum of open space--they require quite significant amounts of parking and generate regular traffic which would be quite heavy at times. It is specious reasoning to assert that asphalt parking lots and game/practice traffic meet the definition or the intent of open space. I would rather see improvements in fields on grounds of the schools. That would also be more convenient for the kids, and would take advantage of existing parking in the schools.

Please consider also that if units of clustered affordable housing are included on the plan, the parking lots, traffic, and potential after hours security requirements generated by inviting sports fields would contribute to the ghetto-izing of the affordable housing units. If the town is going to cluster the affordable housing together for economic reasons, then it should be incumbent upon us to set them in an attractive environment, and not disturb their enjoyment of their homes.

Also, please remember that farms are not the same as home gardens--you need to have contiguous farmable land of sufficient size in order to make the operation viable and efficient. Farm operations will fail if they are forced to be scattered across various town sites. Economy of scale is important. Community farming should be made a priority at Busa. You might want to give a deadline of 10 years to make the farm system work, then reserve the option to reassess. That way, nothing would be lost forever and you retain control if the community farm does not work out despite having the proper land resources. (5 acres plus space for farm infrastructure--equipment, barn, etc)

This decision will set a direction for Lexington--will we become a city in all but name or will we preserve a unique character and a unique opportunity for our town?

Frances Wentworth
one of the silent 30, 000

Lynne Pease

From: Pamela Tames [pamela.tames5@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:16 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Land for Community Farm

Dear Selectmen,

I write to urge you to explicitly designate a significant portion of the Busa land for a community farm. Families like mine are very enthusiastic about the prospect of a community farm, which will sustain one of the last parcels of farmland in the town and will provide residents with local food and educational opportunities within their own community.

A few years ago, our family was a member of the Food Project in Lincoln, where we harvested and picked up vegetables, fruits and herbs. Visiting the farm, volunteering to work the land, and engaging with others who enjoyed the same was uplifting. But, the drive to Lincoln kept us from returning as our family grew. We thought if only we had something like this in our community, in Lexington.

You have the chance to do this now. You have the research and a recommendation from the committee you designated. Please go forward with this recommendation, and designate Busa farm, if not in whole than at least in significant part, a community farm.

Thank you for your consideration of this email.

Pamela Tames
26 Bertwell Road

Lynne Pease

From: Louise Cady-Fernandes [cadyknitz@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:41 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa farm vote

Dear Selectmen,

As a Lexington resident and parent I urge you to keep Busa farm as a working farm for the benefit of the Lexington community. Both of our daughters worked at the farm last summer and would be heart-broken to see such a wonderful place be made into something other than what it is.

A community farm is exciting and good for Lexington in so many ways. More playing fields, in my opinion, are not.

A community farm will be such a wonderful teaching tool about the environment, about eating healthfully, and about pulling together as a community on a project with all age groups.

I request that you vote for a community farm with a minimum of five tillable acres and the rest of the open space dedicated to farm infrastructure. It is also important to preserve the open view scape along Lowell Street by keeping the housing units to a minimum.

Thank you for your time,

Louise Cady-Fernandes

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Lynne Pease

From: emlandman@gmail.com on behalf of Elizabeth Landman [emlandman@rcn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:45 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm Land

As a longtime resident of Lexington, nearly 39 years, I urge you most emphatically to continue to promote farming in Lexington via a community farm on the Busa Farm Land. Moreover I ask that the farm property have at least five tillable acres for planting crops. The rest of the "open land" should be used for infrastructure for the farm.

In addition, I would request that the Housing Commission build four units of affordable housing on the property as illustrated by Janet Kraft's excellent presentation aided by an able architect (whose name unfortunately I have forgotten).

You have already heard arguments in support of the community farm model many, many times and I will not repeat them to the point of redundancy. Please vote in favor of the Busa Community Farm proposal on Mon., Mary 19.

Thank you for your support of both the community farm and affordable housing,

Elizabeth Landman
197 Woburn St.
Lexington, MA.

Lynne Pease

From: David Parker [dparker.personal@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:46 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa farm land

I am writing to encourage the Selectmen to make what I feel is the right decision - to commit as much of the Busa Farm land as possible toward the continuation of a working farm on the property. As much as I am a supporter of affordable housing and recreational use of land - and believe me, I strongly support both - I can't think of a better use of this kind of land than farming.

Don't forget that Lexington was once all farms. As a town with very strong historical significance, one that works hard to retain architectural integrity so visitors can envision the downtown area during the revolutionary war period, Lexington should also make a strong stand toward retaining farm land so residents and visitors can appreciate and understand the concept of farming in what is now a suburb, but once was a village.

More opportunities will come for affordable housing, particularly on land that is specifically zoned for residences. Affordable housing is not a good fit for the Busa land - it's a farm currently, not a place for residential buildings.

As for recreational fields, I know there is an insatiable demand for more space, but I see this as an important opportunity for the community to strike a balance - the town already has many acres set up for recreational space, and pretty much none, as I understand it, for farming. This is the time to address this mis-match.

Thank you

David Parker
18 year resident
1 Oakland Street
Lexington

Lynne Pease

From: Cornelia Sittel [csittel27@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 12:28 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Lowell Street Farmland

Dear Selectmen,
I am writing to you to express my uttter frustration with your plans to divide the farmland on Lowell Street for yet more housing. People may need a place to live - but they also need to eat! I cannot believe that in a town as spread out as Lexington, actively used farmland that feeds hundreds of local families (without increasing pollution and clogging up traffic routes by making these hundreds drive to the super market for inferior food) needs to make way for yet more housing.

Also, why do you want to put low income housing on the town's outskirts? Would low-income families not need good access to public transportation and be better off in a central location?

I am really disapointed with your land use ideas being so last century! I moved to the Lex-Arl area for the proximity of a community farm and because a town where the American revolution started seemed a progressive, cool place to live. By turning back to the land practices of the nineteen seventies, where did that spirit go? If anything, Lexington should be a model for modern lifestyles - which include land conservation, not urban sprawl and growing your food where you eat it.

Sincerely,

Cornelia Sittel
51 Lowell Street
Arlington

Lynne Pease

From: Caroline Fernandes [carofernandes91@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 1:57 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Preserve Community Farming

Dear Lexington Selectmen,

My name is Caroline Fernandes. I am a 20-year-old Lexington resident, Middlebury College student, and recent employee of Busa Farms and Gardens. I started working on the farm last spring but already my attachment to the farm runs deep. It gives me a lump in my throat to think that the farm could be bulldozed over next year. But even more sad to me is the sense of community that we would lose if the farm were to be demolished.

It is so clear that there is a growing movement and demand for pesticide-free, local farming and to demolish the base for that movement that we have here at Busa's would be such a shame. Lexington would be doing the right thing to increase our local farming community not to get rid of it.

Another note is that I have also noticed the different socio-economic classes that frequent the farm and how local farming creates the opportunity for reduced produce costs. Many of our customers join the CSA because it allows them to pick their food for a reduced cost which is an opportunity they cannot find anywhere else and they tell me how happy they are to be able to save money and get fresh produce. I'm sure that a community farm would have a similar system and would be equally beneficial to those families.

We already have the community and the farm for a community farm here. Every customer that has asked me what is happening to the farm says that they hope it stays a farm whether they are a CSA member or someone stopping in on their way home from work. When discussing the potential uses for the Busa Farm land, please remember all the customers who frequent the farm and the community that feeds from it and enjoys being a part of it. Although many of them have not written to a selectmen directly, I have heard their words all over the farmstand.

Thank you for your time,
Please make the right decision,

Caroline Fernandes

Lynne Pease

From: craig weeks [jcw.home@att.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:00 PM
To: Lynne Pease
Subject: comments on busa farm land

hello Lynne,

please forward to selectmen and planning board

thanks

re: busa farm property

an important point which seems to have been overlooked in this politicized debate - which seems to pit strident community farm advocates against the "original intent" of the land purchase for general community use as "open space"

tilled farmland is not available to the general public for use - the crops have to be protected from damage from foot traffic etc - therefore the land is not "open space" available to the general public

if you just leave the land fallow then it is available to all as "open space", just like the rest of lexington's conservation land

if you put some recreation fields upon the fallow land it still is "open space" available to the general community

even some limited housing on 8 acres of land doesnt eliminate all of the "open space" available to the general community

what does the town need that benefits the majority of the community?

more affordable housing? (doesnt benefit the majority in lexington, but may satisfy state mandates)

more athletic playing fields? (absolutely - ever tried to get field space for a youth or adult team? - or had to practice in inadequate space because of overcrowding?) - remember 20% of the population is school age, to say nothing to the adult athletic leagues in town

community gardens or farm (how many actually do or would? certainly not 20% or more of the town - if you really want to support a community farm/garden that the townspeople actually work themselves make the land along waltham st across from clarke middleschool the community farm land instead of leasing it to a private entity

I'd bet if you recast the town vote with the question phrased 'do you want to spend $4+ million of public money for a farm that isnt profitable under professional management by lifelong farmers that will not increase publicly available open space if it remains tilled, active farm land?' the answer would be no.

my nickels worth
regards,

Lynne Pease

From: Elizabeth Stubbs [ewstubbs@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:46 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm Land

Dear selectmen,

I am writing to urge you to designate the remaining Busa Farm land as farm land, and NOT to create playing fields. Although soccer is very popular among the youth of Lexington, our town does not need any more fields. There is a valuable lesson to be learned about taking turns with the existing fields in town. It may be that field usage may have to be apportioned in a more creative manner.

Our town used to be full of farms. We can never go back to that time, but we can keep a small amount of land open, with a working farm on it, to remind us of our heritage. Soccer fields cannot do that.

Please get off the fence and designate this land for farm use. The voice of Lexington must be heard and honored.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Stubbs
20 Cliffe Ave

781-863-5959

Micah Niemy

From: Franklin Stubbs [fstubbs2011@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:52 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Land Use

Hello Selectmen,

I'm writing today to strongly urge you to put the newly acquired Busa plot of land to use as a community farm. This space has been home to one of the last farms in the area, and it remains a very genuine, uncrowded space which benefits the community around it. I grew up just five minutes away from Busa Farm and I've worked the past two summers there as I plan to do again this year. Busa Farm has been an invaluable place for me to grow up and work, and while I realize that a community farm will be different, that sort of place is of immeasurable worth to the surrounding community. I'm an athlete as well and I love good sports fields, but that is not the right location for any type of sports field; it's too crowded.

It seems to me that the overwhelming majority of Lexington residents would like to see this plot of land remain a farm. I urge you to be representatives of the people who elected you and keep Busa Farm a farm.

-Franklin Stubbs

Micah Niemy

From: Rosamond P. Zimmermann [rpzimm@rcn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:53 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm Land

Dear Selectmen,

I am writing in support of the usage of Busa Farm as a Community Farm.
This would be a great asset for the Lexington community and beyond.
This piece of land is not large enough to divide. Please vote to keep The farm with a minimum of five tillable acres and with the rest of the open space as dedicated to the the farm infastructure. It is import ant to preserve the open viewscape along Lowell st. by keepipng housing units to a minimum. This is also best practice with the reservoir nearby.
On Monday night, March 19, please vote to preserve Busa farm as a community farm.

Rosamond P. Zimmermann
160 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421
781-861-9919

Lynne Pease

From: Chamberlain Landis, Elizabeth [Elizabeth.ChamberlainLandis@childrens.harvard.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 4:29 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Community Farm

I am in favor of maintaining the Busa Farm property as 100% farmland. To do otherwise is to lose a valuable community resource that can never be reclaimed. Development of housing and playing fields are short sighted plans that I do NOT want to see happen to that site.

Lynne Pease

From: Breen, John [john_breen@harvard.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 4:38 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm-Please keep as a viable farm

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen,

As a neighbor I have a vested interest in keeping the Busa land a viable farm. As a resident of Lexington, even if I lived on the Waltham, Woburn, or Burlington lines, I'd still have a vested interest in keeping the Busa a viable (and I emphasize "viable" farm). As the Joni Mitchell song said:

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
'Til it's gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot

Once the farm is gone it is NOT coming back. Please make the right decision for the long term health of the town.

Regards,

John Breen
8 Crescent Hill Ave
Lexington, MA 02420
781-861-9281

PS-I am not anti-sports and don't oppose soccer fields in a knee jerk fashion-I am the past president of Lexington Youth Soccer so have an understanding of the field situation, but still don't agree that we need soccer fields (or lacrosse fields, etc.) on the land.

Read more: http://artists.letssingit.com/joni-mitchell-lyrics-big-yellow-taxi-tsgr9wh#ixzz1ow88u15u
LetsSingIt - Your favorite Music Community

Lynne Pease

From: Holly Pearson [hollypearson538@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 4:45 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Community Farm would benefit everyone, now and in the future.

Dear Selectmen:

I urge you to designate the Busa land primarily for farming and farming infrastructure. Playing fields may be needed but in the long run, nothing could be more important for our young people and future generations than local farms that provide food for our table and lessons learned from the experience. A solid investment for the future = keep Busa a working farm.

Sincerely,
Holly Pearson
Lexington.

Lynne Pease

From: Margo Guertin [margo.guertin@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 5:13 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Urging a vote to preserve Busa Farm

As an almost 40-year Lexington resident, voter, and lover of gardening and vegetables, I urge you to vote to preserve enough land to keep Busa Farm as Lexington's one remaining viable community farm. To remain viable, it needs to have at least five tillable acres and the open space reserved for farm infrastructure. A few housing units can probably work with this, as long as they do not mar the open view scape along Lowell Street.

Please, vote to show that you care about saving, *really* saving, the one community farm we have left!

Margo Guertin

Lynne Pease

From: Tom Fernandes [tom@htrconstruction.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 5:55 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farms

Dear Selectman,

I think you should advocate to preserve as much of Busa Farm as is possible at next week's vote. There are plenty of ball fields close by, and no or little working farmland in Lexington. A commitment to keep ties with the past and keep open the possibility of local farming is very important to the community.

Tom Fernandes
4 Ward St.
Lexingtron.

Lynne Pease

From: Steven Varga Golovcsenko [svargag@massmed.org]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 7:20 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: busa farms

Please make sure there is still a working farm at Busa, including other needs for the land.

Thanks,

Steven Varga-Golovcsenko
38 Moon Hill Road
Lexington, MA

Lynne Pease

From: Tina Jaillet [tkjaillet@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:32 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farms

Dear Selectmen,
I urge you to vote on Monday night, March 19, to preserve Busa Farm as a Community Farm. My experience with community farming has always been rewarding and a catalyst for connecting with other members in the community. I know it will be a great loss to Lexington if you allow the division and development of the Busa farmland and forego a healthy decision for our town.

Tina Jaillet
15 Diana Lane

Lynne Pease

From: Christina Van Vleck [vanvleck@rcn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:44 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please preserve the Busa land for farming

Dear Board of Selectman,

I am writing in support of preserving the Busa land not already allocated for affordable housing to be used exclusively for a community farm. This organically-farmed land is an invaluable asset for Lexington and provides so many opportunities for healthy educational programs for our community. When we voted in support of Lexington purchasing the Busa land, our understanding was that it would be maintained as a farm. We would be devastated to see it used otherwise.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Christina Van Vleck

.....

Christina Van Vleck, Designer
114 Lowell Street
Lexington, MA 02420
T 781.652.0346 | C 781.248.2534
vanvleck@rcn.com

Lynne Pease

From: Carolyngo@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:03 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: please vote in favor of a community farm and take action to protect the view

Dear Selectmen:

I am writing to ask that you please vote in support of using the Busa Land for a community farm. In addition, I ask that you modify your decision to site housing on this land and take steps to protect the view of the farm so that it will remain accessible to the greatest number of people--not just the small handful of families who will be lucky enough to live there.

The Busa Land Use Proposal Committee did a remarkable job in serving our community and your board by organizing an open, public process that allowed for constructive engagement and dialogue. They made a clear recommendation--one year ago this week! In so doing, the committee handed you a wonderful opportunity to champion an effort to preserve our town's agricultural history while also initiating something unique for the future. I am dismayed that your board chose not to endorse its own committee's recommendations, but instead to drag this decision out. None of the meetings you have held have came close to the effectiveness of the operation of BLUPC's public forums. Rather, your meetings have allowed countless false statements to cloud the discussion, causing rancor and bad feeling across our community.

Your failure to listen to your own committee--and the many strong, diverse voices that have spoken up in favor of a community farm--runs the risk of seeming arrogant and out of touch with Lexington residents. Thus far you have set housing as a priority, yet I have attended many meetings and I did not hear the community crying out for affordable housing. I heard housing committees expressing this need, but no one else. I did not even hear very many citizen voices in favor of recreational fields on this site. Most of the people I know who express a need for sports fields understand that the desired large field will not fit on this parcel of land and that the town needs to do a better job maintaining and managing the numerous fields that it already has.

You still have a chance to make things right, but you must act quickly to approve a community farm on the Busa Land.

At the same time, I ask that you take action right away to decide to limit any housing there to <u>four units maximum</u>. I support housing on this site, but only if it is thoughtfully planned to allow for a viable, visible farm. I was seriously disappointed that you chose to dismiss the idea of a mixed-use, integrated, and more densely solution for housing at the site. Your recent decision to vote in favor of putting affordable housing along Lowell Street--without any stipulation regarding a limit of scale and scope--is especially troubling.

One of the purposes behind preserving historical landscapes such as the Busa farm is so that all can enjoy them. Although the planning model for Lexington in the recent past seems to be to site construction along frontage and block views of open space, I urge you to consider an alternative approach in this case--and in the future. The view of

open space makes it accessible to the maximum number of individuals. Even people not visiting the farm would be able to obtain pleasure and a sense of place from it. To put housing along the roadside at this location is to create a new kind of exclusivity, and to undermine one of the major reasons for preserving open space in the first place.

Would your board look favorably if the owners of Wilson Farm decided to put housing--or any built structures--along Pleasant Street, blocking the view of the farm for all to enjoy? I think not. It is a gateway to our town, just like the southern end of Lowell Street at the Arlington border. Then why would town leaders decide to block this view on land that the community owns?

Please wake up and embrace this progressive possibility for Lexington. For the sake of our ancestors and future generations, make the right choice. Take the high road and take credit! Please vote in favor a community farm so that Lexington residents can create something beautiful for which we can all be proud. And please minimize housing on the site so that we all may behold its splendor.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Carolyn M. Goldstein
10 Peacock Farm Road
Lexington, MA 02421
tel. 781 652 0288

Lynne Pease

From: Kerry Emanuel [emanuel@MIT.EDU]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:15 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: BUSA farm

Dear Selectmen: I hope you will vote this Monday to make the Busa property a community farm. Our children would profit much more from learning something about the land than from yet another playing field. I am familiar with community farms in several other towns and these cases they are highly valued by broad cross-sections of their communities. Farms are a valuable part of our heritage, and heritage is important to Lexington in particular. Please do the right thing...

Yours, Kerry Emanuel
9 Reed Street
Lexington

Lynne Pease

From: kathy Solomon [soloperson@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:49 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: busa farm land

Please,
Please consider what the majority of residents would like: space for community farm land. This is the open space that we deserve. Not only is it a good community builder but a great educational opportunity for our children, as well as a sustainable and healthy way to KEEP open space. We DO NOT need more fields. Please respect what the residents (and tax payers) consider important.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kathy Solomon

Lynne Pease

From: Danielle Boudrot [danielleboudrot@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:25 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: sunset over busa farm

Attachments: IMG_0036.jpeg; ATT2779467.txt; IMG_0080.jpeg; ATT2779468.txt; IMG_0078.jpeg; ATT2779469.txt; IMG_0077.jpeg

IMG_0036.jpeg (329 KB) ATT2779467.txt (68 B) IMG_0080.jpeg (460 KB) ATT2779468.txt (68 B) IMG_0078.jpeg (339 KB) ATT2779469.txt (68 B) IMG_0077.jpeg (350 KB)

Dear Lexington Selectmen,

One of the greatest gifts in my life is the view of Busa farm...I cherish every sunset as if it were a masterpiece of priceless art...please, I beg you to re-consider your decision to place housing along this view-scape...you may not have had the chance to experience what I have, but if you save this view, I invite you to come share this work of art with me...the summer is just around the corner...there are many masterpieces yet to come

Best,
Danielle Boudrot

photos by danielle boudrot

Lynne Pease

From: Barbara and Jim Munkres [barbjim.munkres@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:01 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Choices for use of Busa Land....

To the Lexington Selectmen.....

I am greatly saddened to learn that the Busa Farm land could still, after all the favorable comment from Lexington citizens, be lost to recreational fields and housing.

A community farm is an asset for which we and our descendants will be grateful forever, and it is unlikely that a better location will be found in the future.

There will be other parcels for recreation, and it seems likely there are even ways to increase the amount of recreation space without all the expenditure.

To allow the soil of this land that has been farmed in a healthy way for over 100 years to be broken seems a tragedy to many of us.

Our climate is changing; there is no doubt that we are in a situation which no human beings have ever faced. We know that our communities may need to learn to be more self sufficient. What better way than to provide a farm where we can learn sustainable living.

Please consider this decision carefully in the light of a changing world.

Sincerely,
Barbara Munkres
40 Woodland Road
Lexington

Lynne Pease

From: Geissler, Gary [geissler@fas.harvard.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:55 PM
To: selectmen's
Cc: Danielle Boudrot
Subject: The Farm on Lowell Street
Attachments: DSCF0898.JPG

Dear Selectmen,
There must be another way to meet the goals of housing without losing this view.
You must consider the future generations – to date this view has existed since before the birth of our country – and now we are going to block it out? For almost four hundred years we have been able to develop our town without sacrificing this sacred space – please let's find an alternative build plan.
Sincerely,
Gary

Dr. Gary J. Geissler,PT,DPT,SCS,ATC
Board Certified in Sports Physical Therapy
Clinical Director of Rehabilitation
Harvard University
Department of Athletics
Murr Center
65 N. Harvard Street
Boston, MA 02163
617-495-2200 (P)
857-998-0981 (C)
617-495-8591 (F)
geissler@fas.harvard.edu

Lynne Pease

From: John Clough [cloughjohnh@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 5:37 PM
To: selectmen's
Cc: Lynne Pease; Alex Laats; Rourke, Dennis; Joy McCallum
Subject: Lexington Soccer co-Presidents Support for Recreation Usage at Busa Property
Attachments: letter LUSC support 20120313.docx

Dear Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Lexington Board of Selectmen,

In advance of your upcoming meeting on March 19th and for your consideration, Alex Laats and I, current co-Presidents of the Lexington United Soccer Club, are forwarding the attached letter to you to express our support for recreation usage at the Busa property. This letter is an updated version of a letter submitted by the then co-Presidents Dennis Rourke and Joy McCallum (copied here) to the Recreation Department and Recreation Committee in May, 2010.

We kindly request your permission to read this letter at your upcoming meeting Board of Selectmen. If you grant permission, I will be present to read the letter and represent the current LUSC co-Presidents at the 3/19 meeting.

We look forward to your reply. Thank you.

Sincerely,
John Clough

Lynne Pease

From: Olga Guttag [opg1000@rcn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:13 PM
To: Tom Diaz; selectmen's
Cc: lex-polrel@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: Busa Farm Decision

Tom,

Thanks for pulling out the BLUPC member recommendations on the number of housing units (refers to Tom's email to TMMA). Based on these numbers:

The average maximum number of units recommended in the BLUPC is: (3x0+3x2+1x8)/7= 2 units. - read TWO units
The average minimum number of units recommended in the BLUPC is: (3x0+3x1+1x4)/7=1 unit - read ONE unit

The Selectmen's vote for 4 units is DOUBLE of the maximum and QUADRUPLE of the minimum BLUPC recommendation. In my book, this is not "but approximately" what the report recommends. When I look at the percent increase in the BoS vote to build 4 units, I personally read this as the BoS disregarding the recommendations of BLUPC.

Forming a committee of volunteers who put in large amount of quality work to produce a report of recommendations, which the board then ignores indicates to me that the whole BLUPC process has been just for show. As a Lexington resident, I am very upset with such a way of governing. Either the board should form a quality committee and then follow its recommendations, or tell us - the citizenry - that the board will make the decision by itself. I prefer the first option, but could appreciate (if not agree with) the second. However, I do have a serious issue with using committees as "window dressing."

I sincerely hope that the Selectmen reconsider their vote or that Town meeting members find a way to protect the open space and not build on the farm with the exception of perhaps one affordable unit for the farmer.

Cheers,
Olga

PS:
Tom, could you please post this note on the TMMA list. Thanks.

Olga P. Guttag
273 Emerson Rd
Lexington, MA 02420

Lynne Pease

From: Linda Lee [lindaqlee@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:57 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please support a Lexington Community Farm

To the Lexington Selectmen,

I write again to urge you to follow the recommendation of the Busa Land Use Proposal Committee and support a community farm in Lexington.

There's no need for me to write about the pros and cons of the farm, as that's been stated over and over in various meetings. Instead, let me say a few words about my impressions of the process over the past few years.

Although active in the community, this is the first time I've felt strongly enough about an issue that is to be decided by our town government to have participated, attended meetings, spoken, and written about the topic. While I remain respectful of the time and effort that the selectmen give to the town and the need to , the process has been very dismaying to me. I was very surprised at the way the BLUC committee proposal was discarded. I've had similar conversations with friends in Lexington who feel disenfranchised, and we wonder if perhaps this is just the way town matters are run.

I understand that there are many factors to weigh, but I urge you to go forward on following the recommendation of the BLUC committee, which was made with much effort and research, and to create this forward looking, unique asset for the town.

Regards,

Linda Lee
55 Baskin Road

Lynne Pease

From: Irene J Sahatjian [sahatjian@juno.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:01 PM
To: selectmen's
Cc: sahatjian@juno.com
Subject: Busa Farm

Dear Selectmen,

I know that you are aware that officials are elected to carry out the needs of their constituents and I also know that you all work very hard to accomplish those goals. In light of that, I respectfully remind you that the majority of the people in Lexington do want the Busa Farm to remain a farm as exhibited by the large number of people who have spoken at the meetings and the recommendation of the committee which you appointed. Some people who are advocating for other uses for the farm have written to the Minuteman and have spoken at meetings indicating that the Community Farm is being pursued by a private organization to serve only a selected few. This is very inaccurate. A farm would benefit many more people that the other uses. Anyone who wishes could pick and buy fresh vegetables (everyone now realizes locally grown vegetables are so important for sustainability), could participate in the educational aspect of the community farm (as in cooking, canning, learning about the best way to treat the soil and grow produce, etc.), and bring children to the farm for a learning experience for them. It would also provide the high schoolers with a marvelous opportunity for volunteering. If you vote to divide the land there will not be enough acreage to accomplish all these goals. If you feel that you must have housing (even though Lexington has more than is mandated) please limit the units to not more that four placed in such a way that would have the least impact on the farm.

Thank you for your consideration,

Irene Sahatjian
124 Burlington St.
Lexington

Lynne Pease

From: Reed, Kristen [kreed@edc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:07 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Limit housing to 4 units. Ensure space for farm-based education on the Busa Land

March 14, 2012

Dear Lexington Selectmen,

I grew up in Lexington and attended the Lexington Public Schools K-12. Five years ago my husband and I chose to move back here with our own children. I have benefitted from this town's dedication to education and so have my children. Please continue to honor that dedication to education by dedicating at least 5 acres of tillable land to a community farm on the Busa Farm land. I worked on the education section of the LexFarm proposal to the BLUPC and know that at least 5 acres of farmland is crucial to ensuring the full range of education programs included that proposal. This requires limiting the affordable housing to at most four units.

Other LexFarm members and I have reached out to community farms in our area, educators in Lexington, and Farm-based education associations to develop ideas for education that could be successful on a Lexington Community Farm.

These ideas include programs for people of all ages (in brief):

- Weekly story and explore the farm programs for preschoolers
- Hands-on learning programs for school-aged children
- Internships and community service opportunities for older students
- Adult workshops on organic gardening, preserving and canning food, sustainable landscape design, among many others
- A historic farming exhibit that would highlight Colonial and Native American farming practices compared to modern practices.

As you formally designate how the land will be used in the future, keep in mind that the full breadth of education programs can only be incorporated if there is enough land on the farm to offer these programs. For example, a farm that is significantly smaller than 5 acres it would be challenging if not impossible to host a grade-level field trip (60 or more students) from any of the Lexington elementary schools. Ideally, there would be a separate area dedicated to education that would include a learning and demonstration garden for our community to enjoy.

Please see below for a list of examples of education programs that a Lexington Community Farm could offer.

Thank you,
Kristen Reed
15 Westminster Ave
Lexington

Examples of Pre-School Programs:
The 1.5 hour programs would run at least once a week. Fee of $10-12/per family per session would cover the cost (LCF could subsidize cost with farm production). Minimum of 4 families needed to run the program and cover costs.

1. Read story about farmer's tools, explore farmer's tools, make your own simple tool
2. Read potato story and plant potatoes, decorate your own potato
3. Read pumpkin book and plant pumpkin seeds, make your own paper pumpkin
4. Read book about ducks, explore ducks' habitat at the Reservoir,
5. Read bug book, take a bug walk, design and make your own paper bug
6. Make a solar pizza box, make s'mores, eat them

Examples of Field Trips for School-Age Children[1] <#_ftn1> :
2-3 hour programs with fees approximately $7 per child.

Close to the Ground: Eating for Your Health Grades K-5 Curriculum Connections:
MASS DOE Nutritional Frameworks:
- Identify the key nutrients in food that support healthy body systems and recognize that the amount of food needed changes as the body grows
- Use the USDA Food Guide Pyramid and its three major concepts of balance, variety, and moderation to plan healthy meals and snacks
- Identify the connection between food served in the home and regional food production
Program Format:
- An indoor experience including reading a book and identifying a variety of foods needed for a healthy daily energy. Students will learn about the new food pyramid and identify foods on the Farm related to the pyramid categories.
- An outdoor experience in the gardens harvesting and tasting food on the farm. Students will discuss and participate in activities to learn the meaning of terms related to food choices that are common but perhaps misunderstood, such as processed food and whole food. Students will learn how foods grow with sun, air, water, & soil and become fuel for their bodies.

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<http://www.natickfarm.org/Pages/School_Programs/Elementary_Main.html#Q20>

Soil & Plants: Characteristics of a Living System Grades 3-5 Curriculum Connections:
MASS DOE: 3-5 Science - Biology:
- Identify structures in plants (leaves, roots, flowers, stem, bark, wood) that are responsible for food production, support, water transportation, reproduction, growth, and protection
- Recognize plant behaviors response to light, gravity, seasonal changes etc.
- Describe how energy derived from the sun is used by plants to produce sugars (photosynthesis) and is transferred within a food chain from producers to consumers to decomposers.
Program Format:
Focus on the characteristics of a plant. Beginning with a vegetable plant in our gardens, students cooperate to identify plant parts and system functions. The class covers the processes plants use to eat and drink, seasonal changes, and how their botanical systems function. Students also learn the basics of plant identification.

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<http://www.natickfarm.org/Pages/School_Programs/Elementary_Main.html#Q20>

Examples of Out-of-School Learning Programs for Children Farmer¹s Helpers Program (Age 7-13) Approximately $10/per student for 1.5 hour session.
Help start vegetable seedlings, transplant and prepare garden beds, harvest vegetables, help maintain farm and farm equipment. Depending on the work to be done and time of year sessions would include learning about the ecology, healthy eating, farming practices, soil, water, insect control, plant propagation, cultivation, and plant growth,

Examples of Adult Learning Programs:
Fees for these programs are approximate $20 per hour of instruction time.
1. Adaptive Gardening (how to use adaptive gardening tools)
2. Harvest hops and make beer
3. Harvest corn and grind for corn bread
4. Harvest and preserve
5. Culinary and medicinal herb workshop
6. Compositing and soil fertility
7. Bird watching
8. Organic Gardening
9. Fruit trees for your backyard
10. Starting your own garden
11. Farm tour
12. Historical Farming
13. Preserving and Canning Food
14. Jam and Jelly Making
15. Backyard Chickens
16. Ecological Lawn Care

17. Sustainable Landscape Design
18. Edible Wild Plants walk

Community Work Days (April-November)
One day a month from 9am-1:00pm
The Farm Manager and/or Volunteer Stewards will give an overview of the work to be done that day on the farm. Then the volunteers will split up into groups (by age and experience) to complete the work. The farmer and steward will work to ensure that there is appropriate work for people ages 3-seniors. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers will picnic together at the end of the work period. In subsequent years, additional community work days will be offered as the volunteer base increases.

Please see the following websites for additional examples:

Natick Community Organic Farm:
http://www.natickfarm.org/Pages/Programs_Overview.html

Weston[1]s Land[1]s Sake Farm:
http://www.landssake.org/education

[1] <#_ftnref> From Natick Community Organic Farm
http://www.natickfarm.org/Pages/School_Programs/Elementary_Main.html

Education Development Center, Inc. | Learning transforms lives.
edc.org

Lynne Pease

From: Bill Fiora [wfiora1@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:22 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Support for converting Busa property to a community farm

I am writing to express my strong support to use the Busa property for a community farm, as recommended by the Land Use committee. This option will preserve a unique parcel of land, a beautiful view, and will be the most-affordable option of those considered.

Please follow the lead set forth by the Land Use committee and vote to use the Busa property as a community farm.

Best regards,

Bill Fiora
38 Bow Street
02420

Lynne Pease

From: rwk [rwk@chandler.mit.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:03 PM
To: selectmen's
Cc: rwk@chandler.mit.edu
Subject: Busa Farm
Attachments: Letter_to_Selectmen.pdf

Lynne Pease

From: Meg Muckenhoupt [megmuck@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:39 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm Decision

Dear Selectmen:

I urge you to follow the Busa Land Use Proposal Committee's recommendations and select affordable housing and a community farm as the sole uses for the Busa Farm site. These uses will minimize hardship for the Busa Farm's neighbors both in the short and long term. The farm is an existing use, and a limited amount of housing along Lowell Street that would not block the views would be acceptable to the surrounding community.

By contrast, a recreation field would create ongoing disruption, both in its development—which would require considerable regrading and filling—and its use. Creating sufficient parking on the Busa site for recreation use, a field, and field buffers would take up considerable space. Overflow parking would end up on Lowell Street a heavily-trafficked road with few provisions for parking or pedestrians crossing the street.

The Recreation department is doing a good job of serving Lexington community, denying fewer than 5% of field requests in the last year (ca 2,000 hours vs. more than 50,000 hours scheduled.) By comparison, Lexington has a multi-year waiting list for affordable housing, and the town currently has no facilities for a community farm whatsoever. In terms of simple fairness to our community, Lexington as a whole needs this particular site for a farm and affordable housing far more than a Recreation field.

You have already heard the reasons for establishing a community farm on one of Lexington's last farm sites several times; I will not repeat them here. Hundreds of Lexington residents have expressed their deep commitment to a farm over and over again.

I know that members of the Board of Selectmen is devoted to serving the needs of the entire town, not just a particular interest group. The town's 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan urges the town to develop facilities that will serve our aging population. Devoting our limited resources to creating yet another recreation field for children under 18 does not fulfill that plan. A community farm is an open space that can serve residents of all ages and abilities—including wheelchair users, via adapted beds and greenhouse tables.

I urge you to make a fair, balanced decision in favor of a farm with limited housing.

Meg Muckenhoupt

19 Whipple Road

Precinct 1

Lynne Pease

From: Valerie Perkins [vipsme@rcn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 3:17 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please allow Busa Farm to become a Community Farm

Dear Select board,

Our family is hoping you will vote soon to allow Busa Farm land to become a Community Farm for so many reasons:

If this precious farm land is turned into a soccer/playing field now there, is no easy sensible way to ever return the land to farmland. The reverse is possible. Give Community Farming a chance.

A Community Farm would be recreational, educational and sustainable. Playing fields are not the only form of recreation for our children. Community farming is recreational for children and teens (an alternative for those kids not interested in soccer and lacrosse) and young adults and older folks as well. It's a cherished intergenerational recreational and educational activity.

We as citizens of Lexington and this planet are stewards of the remaining farmland - even more important when adjacent to conservation land and a reservoir - as the Busa land is.

A Community Farm will likely be self sustaining and not require ongoing town funds to set up and operate. It will provide work to farmers and educators and most likely provide food to the food pantry (not just to paying CSA members). Playing fields would require significant ongoing funds from the town to build and maintain.

PLEASE GIVE COMMUNITY FARMING A CHANCE IS THE FISCALLY, RECREATIONALLY, EDUCATIONALLY, RESPONSIBLE AND FORWARD THINKING ACTION TO TAKE!

THANKS FOR YOUR VERY LONG CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE.

Valerie Perkins
8 Wheeler Road
Lexington, MA 02420
vipsme@rcn.com

Micah Niemy

From: Christopher White [mr.christopher.white@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:26 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Vote in Favor of using Busa Farm for Community Farming

Hello Selectmen,

My name is Christopher White, and I am in support of using the remaining Busa Farm land to be allocated as a community farm, including a minimum of five tillable acres and the rest of the open space dedicated to farm infrastructure. By voting in favor of this you are:

- Supporting local agriculture that will be used and supported locally;
- Bolstering the economy through use of Lexington's resources; and
- Adding to Lexington's 'Green' footprint.

Please vote in favor of using the remaining Busa Farm land to be allocated as a community farm.

Best regards,
Christopher

--

Christopher H. White
Mr.Christopher.White@gmail.com
W: 978-837-4850
C: 781-698-6025

Micah Niemy

From: Ricki Pappo [ricki.pappo@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 5:01 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Letter from a resident - Ricki Pappo
Attachments: Dear Selectmen.RPappoEF.docx; carbon nation 3.18.jpg

Dear Selctmen,
Below is the text of my letter. I have both attached the file and a flyer for an GWAC event that I think you may find interesting (I refer to it in my letter).
Many thanks for your work for our town,
Ricki

Dear Selectmen:

I am writing to voice my opinion on the Busa Farm land usage. My position since the beginning of this process has been that we should maintain Busa Farm as a community farm. I have not written before as I have worked on the campaigns for two of the Selectman and I am in a social group with another member, and I knew you were hearing from many others who shared my opinion. But now, it's time for me to express my thoughts on this issue.

As has been said many times, Lexington has a once-in-lifetime opportunity to sustain this land as farmland. Once we go and chop up the land, pave it, and/or grade it, we will have lost a valuable asset—forever. Local food and sustainable living are not fads, they represent a proactive direction for our community. We are in the throes of what is likely a profound transformation of our natural world. It is called "climate change," and I would like to think Lexington is trying to do whatever can be done to address an uncertain future.

From the beginning farm issue seemed pretty clear to me. We have a farm that has been a farm for centuries. Why would we change that now? Why not give the farm a chance to become a valued resource for food and a unique educational opportunity for all ages. Should this not work out in five years, then we can rethink it. But we cannot go back to this moment in time.

I am a member of the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition (GWAC). On February 27, GWAC screened the flm *Carbon Nation* to a packed-to-capacity room of Lexington residents. The film takes a positive approach to climate change and the steps individuals, communities, and our nation can, and must, do…and what many are doing right now! Because the audience was so energized by the movie, we are showing it again, at the request of the audience, so more people can see it. One salient point in the film had to do with organic farming and how thoughtful soil and land use can GREATLY help with

carbon sequestration. Our community has the opportunity to do just that.

[I invite you all to come to the Sunday, March 18 showing of Carbon Nation *at the library at 2:30 pm. See how the audience responds to the crisis we are facing and some solutions that are available.]*

After the movie I dashed over to the Feb. 27 Board of Selectmen meeting. The meeting maintained my optimism as there seemed to be very positive feelings toward keeping the Busa farm a farm. And, since the BoS had already committed to housing, architect Carl Oldenburg did a good job presenting ideas to find a balance for both these land uses.

I want to state that just because I believe the farm should stay a farm—and just a farm—this does not mean I am against low-income housing.

On March 5, I tuned into the Board of Selectmen meeting on TV. Based on the BoS opinions that were voiced at the Feb 27 meeting, it seemed to be a matter of taking the vote. I fully expected the vote to give a thumbs-up to a community farm and housing, with the actual number of housing units and where they are placed to be decided through a collaborative process.

I was taken aback when I saw that a playing field was back on the table and the town was again mired in divisive discourse. I was also taken aback by the decision to vote that night, with Mr. Manz's absence. While you have had 22 meetings, it seemed very strange to take the vote that night. After 22 meeting and all the work, I thought that it was more appropriate to wait until you had full Selectman participation.

This is not an easy position you are all in as you do have many positions tugging at you. However, there is only one decision that is irrevocable, and that would be to lose this incredible resource for our town—a treasured working farm.

Sincerely,

Ricki Pappo

16 Blossomcrest Road

3/15/2012

--
Ricki Pappo
Enosis-the Environmental Outreach Group
16 Blossomcrest Road
Lexington, MA 02421
781.862.6834
781.254.2582 (cell)
ricki.pappo@gmail.com

"Water is the driving force of all nature."
"Art is never finished, only abandoned."
-Leonardo da Vinci

Micah Niemy

From: Harriet Crafts [bpositive365@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:26 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm

We ask you to please vote to retain Busa Farm as a Community Farm with a minimum of 5-6 tillable acres and all the rest of the open space dedicated to farm infrastructure. We consider Busa Farm almost an historic landmark, and with the effects of the recession still upon us what better use for this prime land?

Sincerely,
Harriet & Leonard Crafts
Precinct 3

Micah Niemy

From: Edward Boudrot [eboudrot@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:09 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please Save Busa Farms as an operating farm and please keep the viewscape

Dear Lexington Selectmen,

One of the greatest gifts in my life is the view of Busa farm...I cherish every sunset as if it were a masterpiece of priceless art...please, I beg you to re-consider your decision to place housing along this view-scape.

Best,
Edward Boudrot

3 Lowell Street
Lexington,MA 02420
Cell 617-633-3456

Lynne Pease

From: hestonmck@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 6:28 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa land use

Dear Selectman,

I am writing to urge you to vote for using the Busa land for a community farm. I feel very strongly that Lexington needs a local, community farm to provide residents with a CSA program, and the opportunity to volunteer and build community around the love of farming and growing food. As a mother of two school age children, I want a place for my kids to go and learn about agriculture, eating well, and sustainability. I personally want to see a farm and similar open space when I drive around town. It's beautiful, relaxing and connects me to nature.

We have many playing fields in Lexington -- I frequently watch my daughter play soccer and lacrosse on them. They are great - and with the improvement of existing center playing fields there are sufficient numbers of them. But not everybody plays sports; a community farm offers other ways to be involved in outdoor activities. This is one reason why the task force, appointed by the Selectmen, recommended the community farm to begin with.

You have an opportunity to offer broader experiences for Lexington residents. Please vote for using Busa land as a community farm.

Janet McKenney
5 Winthrop Rd.
Lexington, MA, 02421

Lynne Pease

From: Jennifer Zacharis [jjzacharis@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 9:12 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Fwd: Busa Land Use
Attachments: LexFarm.jpg; FarmPanoramic.jpg

Dear Lexington Selectmen,

I wrote to you back in August of 2011 regarding the use of Busa Farm. I am writing once again to urge you to follow the recommendations of the Busa Land Use Committee and preserve this valuable farm for the community. I support a community farm on the Busa land, and I encourage you to protect the view along Lowell Street of the farm. Maintaining this view will keep the farm visible and accessible to all. I have attached 2 photographs that I have taken of the beautiful view of Busa Farm from Lowell Street.

Thank you,
Jennifer Zacharis
26 Rindge Ave.
Lexington, MA 02420

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jennifer Zacharis** <jjzacharis@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2011 at 7:58 PM
Subject: Busa Land Use
To: selectmen@lexingtonma.gov

Dear Lexington Selectmen,

I learned the tradition of growing and eating fresh vegetables from my immigrant relatives. Nearly my whole life I have had a vegetable garden during the growing season:

- First in the house where I grew up on the North Shore of Massachusetts.
- Next, on my balcony as a college student at UMass Amherst.
- On the fire escape of my apartment in the city.
- In a community garden plot in Lexington in the Dunback Meadow Conservation area.
- and finally in the yard of my first home in Lexington.

This tradition has been very important to me, but none of it has been as powerful as my experiences on a Community Farm. I am currently a member of Waltham Fields Community Farm and have seen how the simple act of growing vegetables can connect a community together.

I am in favor of keeping Busa Farm a farm. Saving this farmland will protect open space in Lexington that has a rich agricultural history, provide educational opportunities for children and adults, and offer fresh local food for residents and hunger relief programs.

Thank you so much for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Zacharis

26 Rindge Ave

Lexington, MA 02420

781.676.5636

jjzacharis@gmail.com

Lynne Pease

From: Anne Frymer [awake98@rcn.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 10:17 AM
To: selectmen's
Cc: Anne Frymer
Subject: Busa Farm land use

This is my final comment about Busa Farm. I watched this week's broadcast of the Selectmen's meeting at Cary Hall. I came to the following conclusion: the intent of Town Meeting to purchase Busa Farm for four million was to provide the Recreation Dept. with a chance for a new playing field, and then to use the rest of the land in an appropriate manner. Of course LexFarm early on decided that the only "appropriate manner" was to use all 8 acres as a "for profit" farm. This is a real selfish group, although its had to concede on affordable housing.

My conclusion, based on my several years as a TMM, is that the selectmen are 100 per cent responsible for voting in favor of the playing field, to reflect TM's original intent. To do otherwise would be to have duped Town Meeting into a "bait and switch" scenario.

I also want to upgrade my suggestion of 4 units of affordable housing to 8. For all I know there will never be another opportunity for Lexington to build more than two units of affordable housing at a time. Who knows when money will run out for LexHab, ending any further chance for new housing. As Peter Kelley has frequently observed, renovation of old housing simply means uncovering expensive defects.

Last, I've been very much swayed by the documentation of Newton's two acre public farm as being a resounding success,. I'd be just as happy if just two acres of Busa Farm be retained as farm land.

Anne Frymer
64 Asbury St.

9 Reed Street
Lexingon MA 02421 USA
Tel. (781) 652 8032 Fax (501) 325-9080
s.emanuel@rcn.com

Lexington Board of Selectmen
The Minuteman Newspaper

March 12 2012

"EMBATTLED FARMERS"

The poetic salute to the backbone of Lexington's revolutionaries seems to have been forgotten by the people who administer the town today. Attendance at my first Selectmen meeting last Monday was deeply disturbing. I was dismayed to discover the foggy thinking by people who seem to have no regard for the history of the town, any care to preserve farm space and its view from being spoiled by development – or the work of its own land use committee and by the LexFarm's visionaries. They just want to offend nobody and come up with a half-assed compromise.

My husband and I left another greater Boston community because its historical roots were being neglected. Lexington has plenty of field space, low-income housing, and travesties of historical property that should have been protected. Today everybody needs to eat locally. Given the opportunity to return a small farm that was a feature of our town for 300 years to what our country was founded upon, combined with modern initiatives in ecology, organic farming and education, the town seems to be blowing it.

Don't forsake the last plot where "the embattled farmers stood"!

Susan Emanuel

Lynne Pease

From: barbara frishkopf [bfrishkopf@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 11:49 AM

To: selectmen's

Subject: Busa Farm

Dear Selectmen, Busa Farm is very special land. It would be such a shame to lose it. Please vote on Monday to preserve Busa Farm as a community farm.

Thank you. Barbara Frishkopf 2 Munroe Road Lexington

Anne Ehlert
156 Westminster Avenue
Arlington MA 02474

March 16, 2012

The Lexington Board of Selectmen

Re: Busa Farm

I want to thank you for the careful consideration of the issues surrounding Busa Farm. I know the decision is vitally important to Lexington, and your mission to preserve the rich history of Lexington while reviewing current needs is difficult.

I ask that you allocate most of the land for farming, and limit the amount of affordable housing to no more than 4 units, and in no event consider a soccer field on the property.

I realize there are many issues to consider:

- Lexington has a rich historical legacy, and the farm is a beautiful testimony to Lexington's past, and a nice welcome to Lexington on the Arlington side.

- The farm enriches our community and our children's education and environment. Eight units of affordable housing would take too much land to make the farming sustainable.

- The property borders the Arlington Reservoir, and the path around the Reservoir is only a few feet from the border to the Farm. Currently, the farmland provides a nice view from the Reservoir, and complements the water and woods to form a nice outdoor feeling. Buildings, or certainly a soccer field would ruin the view and the feel of being in nature. I walk around the Reservoir several times a week, as do many Lexington and Arlington residents, and it is a treasure to be able to connect with nature in the midst of our towns.

- Traffic safety - the intersection with Westminster Avenue is dangerous enough as it is, and can not support increased traffic.

- Ecological impact on the Reservoir. Additional housing with plumbing needs etc. and certainly artificial turf or fertilizer and pesticides could poison the water our children and dogs swim in, and even kill the life in the reservoir.

Thank you. Once housing is built, or a soccer field is placed, there is really no going back.

Anne Ehlert

Anne Ehlert
156 Westminster Avenue
Arlington MA 02474

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Anne Ehlert

Views of Busa Farm Property from the Arlington Reservoir

The views of the Farm have a big impact on the experience of walking around the Reservoir - a piece of property used by both Lexington and Arlington Residents.

The property is visible to large stretches of the path that circles the Reservoir - including this view where the Farm is across the water.

Anne Ehlert
156 Westminster Avenue
Arlington MA 02474

March 16, 2012

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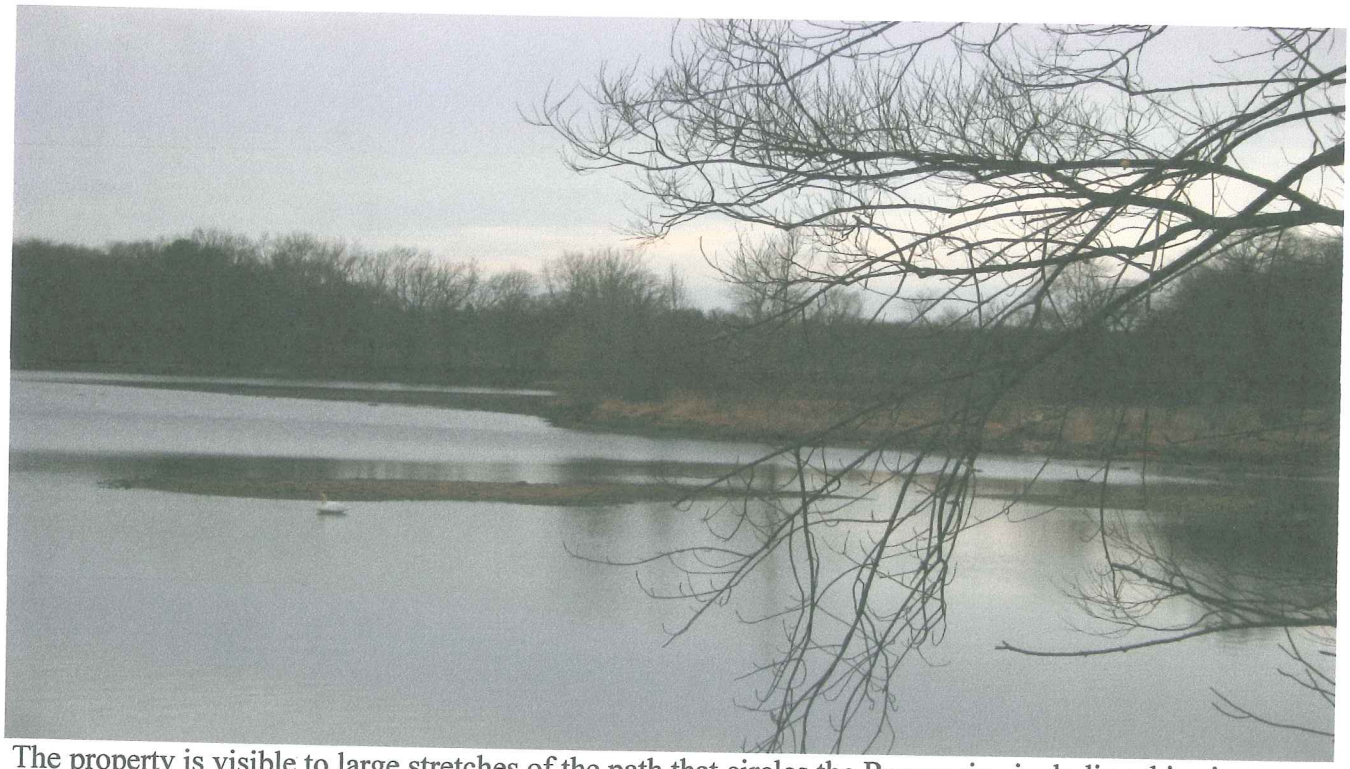

The property is visible to large stretches of the path that circles the Reservoir - including this view where the Farm is across the water.

Lynne Pease

From: lauriebuchta@cs.com
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 7:20 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa land - use for all

Dear Selectmen,

I had no idea this was a popularity contest. When the Town purchased the nearly 8 acres of land in 2009, I thought we now had an opportunity address several known needs in one fell swoop: affordable housing, farmland, and recreation fields. A no brainer.

Therefore I was thunderstruck at the meeting on March 5th to find that the Selectmen have clearly been influenced by the strong farming lobby that all but equates adding field space to adding pavement. While farm space is wonderful and would certainly be used by some people in town, I must ask that you put aside the cajoling by, and full court press from the pro-farm group (many of whom are friends of mine) and give equal attention to the well-documented predicament of the Recreation Department, which is *based on facts*, not popularity. It appears that possibly one token field may be accommodated in 8 acres of land. Really??

We all know the benefits of physical activity, especially in this day of increased obesity in children and adults. However, just as important are the social and community benefits from organized sports. Thousands of Lexington children learn to play together, to "show up" and commit to a team, and to win and lose. These are life lessons. The kids are oftentimes coached by neighbors and/or friends, and in later years (or even the next sports season) often cycle back to play with (or for) some of the same kids and coaches. The fabric of any community is strengthened by these bonds. We all want our kids to "be outside" more. I see kids who learn to play an organized sport, like soccer, lacrosse, or baseball (and hockey), who then have a launching point to gather with neighborhood kids for pick up games.

Sports build community and character. But the logistics cannot be ignored: the simple truth is that our kids need more places to play. Additionally, fields do not lie vacant before and after practices and games; many families will take a ball, or frisbee or just their own two feet and go use an empty field to play.

To reiterate the FACTS:

Three primary purposes for purchasing the land were recreation, affordable housing, and/or open space, which could include community gardens.
On May 6, 2009 a Special Town Meeting voted to buy the Busa land to address the three purposes which were presented and had been recommended unanimously by the CPC the previous month.

Recreation needs:
1. In 1998 the Recreation Dept scheduled 30,000 hours of field time, while in 2010, the number had grown to 49,850.
2. Recreation lost 2 1/2 fields in 2005 when Harrington was built.
3. No new fields have been added since the 1970s
4. Recreation had to deny approximately 2,225 hours of field requests in 2009 due to field shortages.

The mixed use plan was approved twice--by the CPC vote and later, the Town Meeting vote. This should NOT be a decision based on whose voice is loudest. This should be based on the known needs of the Town.

As an aside, my family has a small garden in our yard, and a Community garden plot at Dunback Meadows. We understand the value of green space, but the facts speak for themselves. I urge you to consider ALL the needs of Lexington.

Kind regards,

Laurie Buchta
Highland Ave

Lynne Pease

From: Miriam Fein-Cole [feincole@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 9:20 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Please vote in support of the Community Farm!

Hello,

I urge you to vote on Monday in favor of preserving the Busa Farm as a Community Farm. I understand that this has been your recommendation and I hope you will see it through. It's impossible to get land back once it has been developed. This is a unique opportunity for us to do the right thing -- something we can look back and be proud that we were a part of.

My kids are huge soccer fans and players, and I understand the desire for more field space in town. But I think it would be short sighted to provide this at the expense of farm land -- something we can all enjoy the benefits of.

Thank you for your time and effort on this matter.

Miriam Fein-Cole
68 Cliffe Ave
Lexington, MA

Lynne Pease

From: Olga Guttag [opg1000@rcn.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 10:41 PM
To: Sam B.
Cc: lex-polrel@yahoogroups.com; selectmen's
Subject: Re: [lex-polrel] nightmare of Busa Farms

Sam,

My unhappiness with the Selectmen's decision is not allowing affordable housing, but the number of units. As I noted before, if one takes the average number of BLUC recommended units, the average minimum recommendation in the report is ONE, the average maximum recommendation is TWO.

Having one affordable unit for the farmer at the farm's site makes sense. Four units, as per the BoS decision takes too much away from open space and really reduces the useable farming land. The beauty of starting with the largest possible farm and giving it a chance to succeed is that, if it fails, more housing units (at the expense of open space, which I think to be imprudent) can be added later. However, once four units are built, the open and useable land is gone ...

Hope this clarifies at least my opposition to the BoS decision.

Cheers,
Olga

Olga P. Guttag
273 Emerson Rd
Lexington, MA 02420

On Mar 16, 2012, at 9:22 PM, Sam B. wrote:

> I don't understand this conversation. If I am nor mistaken, the BLUC recommended that the farm be used for affordable housing and for farm use. What are the decisions by the Selectmen other than Farm and affordable housing? I read the proposal by the pro farm people some time ago and I seriously doubt that it is viable. It depends too much on volunteer (free) labor. Even if this approach works at first I question whether that plan is sustainable.
>
> Please don't set up a straw man (affordable housing) if the farm plan is not successful.
>
> Sam

Lynne Pease

From: Mark Zagaeski [mzagaeski@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 12:26 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm land

Dear Selectmen,
Please vote for the Community Farm proposed for the Busa property.
Thank you,
Sincerely,
Mark Zagaeski

814 Mass Ave
Lexington MA

Lynne Pease

From: Jsmaeck@aol.com

Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 9:39 AM

To: selectmen's

Subject: Busa Farms 3/19 -- in support of Community Farm

Dear Selectmen,
Thank you for the careful, thoughtful work you have put in on finding just the right way to use the Busa Farm property.
I fully support the decision for affordable housing that has already be made.
I wish to see 4 units of affordable housing, not more, on the already voted acreage.
I wish to see a Community Farm, with appropriate structures on site, on the entire remainder of the parcel.
Jessie Maeck
Utica St.

Lynne Pease

From: KRISHNAMOO SUBRAMANIAN [subbukdg@rcn.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 10:11 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Fwd: Re: Busa Farm: The Selectmen Decide this Monday 3/19

Attachments: Re: Busa Farm: The Selectmen Decide this Monday 3/19

Re: Busa Farm: The Selectmen D...

Gentleman and Lady selectman:
Please see the attached.
The sketch in the attached should meet all of the needs I have heard thus far:
--- Keep the gateway or entrance to Lexington as an open space.
--- Keep the new housing consistent with neighbor hood appearance
--- Accommodate a 4 unit Lex Fab house
--- Keep the cost of land conversion, sewage, etc. for Lex Fab house to a minimum
--- Locate the Lex Fab house in a place, where there is little or no risk of flooding and water accumulation in the basement.
--- Provide space for farm related building
--- Do not convert any land area currently in use for farming for non-farm needs

Please use the attached in your considerations and decisions Sincerely K. Subramanian
7 Haskell St.
Lexington, MA. 02420

Neighbor -- Busa Farm

Lynne Pease

From: Beth Zonis [beth.zonis@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 12:08 PM
To: selectmen's
Cc: Hank Manz
Subject: Comments re: Busa Farm vote

To the Selectmen of Lexington:

I'm emailing you regarding the Busa Farm decision.

Although my son is an avid participant in multiple sports that utilize ball fields, I strongly support the use of Busa as a community farm. My reasons are:

- Lexington is a historic community, and we should value the land and keep at least some of it as our forebears did.
- A farm these days is somewhat unique, what with all the development everywhere. Let's appreciate it and enjoy it!
- We can use the community farm to grow healthy foods for many of us to consume and appreciate.
- The farm can be used as a place to foster friendships and community involvement.
- The farm should be a place where we can all learn -- about nature in general and gardening in particular.
- The farm can become a destination for people visiting Lexington, a showpiece.
- Once we build on the land, or put ball fields there, it will be nearly impossible to reclaim it for the purpose of farming.

So, I ask you to please vote for the Busa property as a community farm, and for any proposed development of housing along Lowell Street to be limited to a maximum of four units with a footprint of less than 120 linear feet. This will preserve as much of the view and farm fields as possible. This will leave approximately 2/3 of this historic viewscape open along the road.

Thank you very much!

Regards,

Beth Zonis
4 Gould Road
Lexington, MA

Lynne Pease

From: Carmen Mandel [carmenmandel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 12:09 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: To honor our history in the Busa Farm land

What is a town without its history preserved?. Lexington's history is not rooted solely around the Green. The Busa Farm land is an integral part of our history.

Quoted below are excerpts from a locally published letter by resident David Hoose, about the land that later became the Busa Farm:

"

... Lexington has to deepen a crucial link to our unique history.

Along with dozens of other farms in the area, this modest plot of land, which became a farm as early as the 1640s, grew and supplied food to the early European settlers, to Revolutionary War era citizens, and to local families for two more centuries. Its roots lie deep in our Lexington history. In fact, Thomas Winship, descendent of the first family known to have farmed this land, fought and was wounded on Lexington Green on April 19, 1775.

...

Just as we carefully maintain the path the Regulars marched on from Lexington to Concord ... we should give loving honor to one of the last remaining tracts of land that supported a farm to feed those citizens.

Without this and other farms, we might not be a country today.

...

But it isn't necessary to have been in sight, or even in earshot, of that day's fertile chaos to have been connected to that extraordinary moment. This farm, originally owned by the Winship family, much later to become Busa Farm, was every bit as important a "Witness to the Battle."

"

It is a duty to keep and to preserve our history. Therefore, I urge the Selectmen to honor the Busa Farm land's history by voting for a community farm with a minimum of five tillable acres and open views.

Your sincerely,

Carmen Mandel
27 Whipple Rd
Lexington, MA

Lynne Pease

From: Heidi Pasternak [heidi.pasternak@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 1:38 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: A citizen's view on the Busa land

Hello,

I understand that tomorrow will be the decision on what to do with the Busa land.

I feel strongly that, even though I have 2 school-aged kids who play sports, that some of the land should be maintained as a farm. I truly believe that that sort of open space is fundamentally different from recreation fields which must be reserved, that really only benefit a small percentage of town, and which are not natural at all.

In my neighborhood, I see the open space evaporating as houses get bigger, and people start selling off their extra land for houses.

I want my children to be able to have real land in Lexington, not force us to go to Lincoln for a picture of how things used to be.

Please keep Busa a farm.

Thanks!
Heidi Pasternak
51 Ward Street

Lynne Pease

From: Norma Floyd [normafloyd@juno.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:17 PM

To: selectmen's

Subject: RE: GOVERNANCE IN LEXINGTON and BUSA FARM PROCESS Please print out for Mr. Burnell if he doesn't read his email, thank you

RE: NEED FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE PROCESS IN LEXINGTON
Chairman Manz, Selectmen Cohen, Kelley, Burnell, Mauger:

Thank you for writing the state to preserve MBTA service to the public. Thank you for ensuring that White Farm process is ALREADY appropriately open to the public BEFORE any insider decisions are pushed through by political insiders.

The Busa process showed poor quality governance unworthy of Lexington. Busa Farm was a closed governmental process, a "done deal" pushed through by political insiders like Sandra Shaw and abetted by Selectmen. As she in March this year explained in the Minuteman, Sandra Shaw "pushed for CPA" to support only her idea for playing fields. **Absolutely no public process on ideas from elsewhere in the neighborhood nor Town which have existed for decades--to keep Busa a Farm--was held** before Sandra Shaw organized a Town Meeting vote worded to suit only her own interests. **Worse was that Selectmen denied this "done deal"** and went so far as to have a member of the public [the undersigned] removed by police from their meeting for challenging Selectmen's false claim that an intention for playing fields was not an a priori decision, a decision they had in fact made **before any public forums** had been held.

Governance behind closed doors violates the spirit of open meeting law.
Government which was caught in the act of misleading and denying the truth of a priori dealings as mentioned above is not responsible to the citizens of Lexington.

Ever since the Busa Farm purchase, there has been public OUTCRY--Because of the Selectmen's faulty process; this is a Colonial Era Farm, the historic Winship Farm, abutting the only large pond with excellent wildlife habitat and painterly views in Lexington. Neighboring property owners the Goldmans have opposed the Sandra Shaw plan, by not selling needed sections to the Town. **The public, the citizenry who understand the need for affordable housing and playing fields, but who want the unique asset of Busa Farm to continue as it has for 300 years as a legacy to our future. This is a choice superior to putting housing or playing fields destroying this asset.**

The Selectmen-appointed blue-ribbon BLUPC committee including former Selectmen and long-time respected Town Meeting members held many months of forums hearing from the public for the first time in this process. The recommendation of the blue-ribbon BLUPC upon hearing from the public for many months was to preserve the open space with none--or only very little, 2 units of affordable housing which does not belong on Colonial Era Winship Farm. **This voice of the public has continued consistent and Townwide.**

Now Selectmen have made a show of redoing some of the BLUPC process by forcing yet more repetitions of the same issues and the same arguments seemingly so the answer would come out differently.

Now Selectmen have expressed the intention of putting twice as much housing as BLUPC recommended, or even more, on Busa Farm.

Governance which seems thus ignorant of the will of the people or thus intent on remaining deaf to it, make a mockery of Selectmen's own process.

Mr. Burnell, in particular, by his repeated statements, seems not to have thoroughly read the BLUPC report. Mr. Burnell keeps repeating something incoherent about "all the other farmland in Lexington"--which Ms. Mauger has repeatedly had to correct for him: *over Conservation Land the Selectmen have no jurisdiction.*

* *With due respect,* ***is Mr. Burnell in fact too old, too inflexible in his thinking, to correctly absorb the arguments made by so many of the public being heard by BLUPC subsequent to Sandra Shaw's initial push using CPA?*** Mr. Burnell's words simply don't sound like he has been paying any attention to the details of BLUPC's unanimous recommendation--despite BLUPC being appointed by Selectmen to do the Selectmen's work. BLUPC's unanimous recommendation was made after much agonizing thought and serious consideration--**not just to waste the public's time over many months but to take the public input with appropriate respect.**
* Mr. Burnell now pulls numbers out of a hat in abstract back-and-forth with no BLUPC-based foundation, **completely disregarding the public's demand and BLUPC's unanimous recommendation, that the viewscape, which is the only real amenity in the neighborhood, be preserved!** At most two houses are recommended by BLUPC after serious consideration of the many aspects of the site; Mr. Burnell insists on "eight or more"---just as at the beginning, before there was public process---**as though Mr. Burnell had not grasped the seriousness and intensity of the need for something beyond housing in the overcrowded neighborhood.**

- Four houses are recently proposed by Selectmen going "1/3 of the way down Lowell St." Mr. Burnell comes back with "1/2 way down Lowell St."
- This is mere abstract negotiation pulled out of thin air, as though the life of the neighborhood and the superiority of the

Busa Farm amenity for recreation to the Town were not a real concern to Mr. Burnell.

- *Mr. Burnell after all lives near Willard's Woods, a Town asset in **his** neighborhood. How much Affordable Housing is in **his** neighborhood? How many parks, ballfields and playing fields are in **his** neighborhood?*
- ***In the Busa Farm process Mr. Burnell comes across as arrogantly unconcerned, uninformed, unaware of BLUPC's serious reasoning--thus disrespectful to the citizenry advocating for the salvation of the last Colonial Farm still in operation and abutting a most beautiful in Lexington setting.***

In summary: **Affordable Housing and Sandra Shaw's plan was simply not well-thought through (as illustrated by her "regulation playing field" not even fitting the site) and should have received an open governance process with public debate from the beginning. This is the reason for public discussion and real debate of proposals.** Sandra Shaw has repeatedly insulted opponents of her idea by repeatedly calling them names, such as "LexFarm is just a P.R. Machine", "a bunch of elitists"--and her behind-the-scenes obvious trying to pit Wilson's Farm against Busa Farm. **Selectmen should have insisted that Sandra Shaw instead acknowledge that Recreation and Affordable Housing failed to appropriately request public input to correct their own faulty assumptions both on her playing field size being appropriate to the site and on the ardent desire of the public to preserve historic farmland on particularly lovely locations--**both the viewscapes of Wilson's and Busa Farm abutting Arlington Reservoir for the future in the 21st Century.

In the case of East Lexington, the most affordable part of Lexington, there certainly is no question of "NIMBY" against Affordable Housing as we already have so much of it right here--**but intense opposition to Selectmen acting to DESTROY AN EXISTING RECREATIONAL AMENITY, THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE in EAST VILLAGE AND AN ASSET FOR ALL OF LEXINGTON DUE TO THE LAKESIDE SUNSET VIEW LOCATION AND WALKABLE WETLAND WILDLIFE and BEAUTY RECREATIONAL CIRCUIT around lake and farm,** which will be enhanced by such plans as LexFarm has put forward to keep a farm, expand community outreach, increase educational usage and passive recreational amenity in the most overcrowded residential part of Lexington. There is no point in destroying a current recreational amenity in the name of "Recreation".

This past process of government used by Selectmen on Busa Farm has inspired counterproductive mistrust in Selectmen's government in Lexington. This is poor quality governance. Most of all Lexington deserves an upright and open, fair-minded---- not mocking governmental process----which respects and honors the will of the people Selectmen are legally bound to represent, not to sneak behind nor to allow certain pushy "insiders" [who know the ropes of CPA and try to intimidate, like Sandra Shaw, or insensitive forces of Affordable Housing thinking "extending the existing line of houses" is an actual argument for destroying a Colonial beautiful viewscape] to dominate--by sneaking behind the public and, when that fails, to insult the public who do not want such ideas implemented for very good and well-documented reasons.

At this eleventh hour, **Selectmen still have the opportunity to indicate that they have ALL heard and understood--*including Mr. Burnell,*** *for whom commandeering conservation land to offset the uniqueness of Busa Farm is NOT an option.* **Selectmen still have the opportunity to indicate that they all do respect the will of the people in 2012, by abiding by the unanimous BLUPC recommendation not to put Affordable Housing on Busa Farm nor to destroy the viewscape either from the Farm nor from Lowell Street overlooking the Farm and Arlington Reservoir.**

Selectmen work for us and are further directed to pursue good governance by continuing with appropriate, OPEN and respectful public discussion of the potential purchase of White Farm and of later Town purchases which will allow for inclusion of playing fields and affordable housing elsewhere than Busa Farm, the historic Colonial era Winship Farm, in less wetland-valuable and already more traffic-noise affected locations than bucolic Busa Farm.

Thank you for continuing with the needed improvement in the responsiveness of Selectmen governance in Lexington--not to abstractions but to real public input and serious expectation of responsiveness to public concern.

Signed: Norma and H. Christian Floyd
16 Oxford St.
Lexington, MA 02420
(781)862-2841

To Our Selectmen

To The Editor:

There's a wonderful expression which unites people and ideas: Common Ground. Take it apart and we have two precious words: "Common" which represents all the wonderful things we share and "Ground," the beautiful soil which gives us life. Busa Farm is the epitome of this expression…it is for the people of Lexington, those of us who share this special, yes, special town and all its charm, history, interesting residents, beauty and place in this country. And then we have the word, "Ground." We've read that it can take a thousand years to build up one inch of topsoil…a thousand years! And just a few minutes to bury that precious, life giving soil beneath a house or playing field. It took years and years of careful tending to create the soil at Busa Farm, yet it will only take a blink of an eye to turn it into parking lots and we will all lose the life giving properties of that precious topsoil forever.

We urge our Board of Selectmen to consider carefully their decision regarding the Busa Farm property. That decision will affect Lexington for many years to come. Let's all meet on Common Ground.

Lexington Environmental Action Team

The Lexington Interfaith Environmental Action Team meets each month with people of faith from a diverse group of faith communities who share common ground in supporting clean air, clean water and protecting our environment.

Joyce A. Greif

Joyce Greif
Meriam Street

Lynne Pease

From: Jared Jenisch [jjenisch@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 10:25 AM
To: selectmen's
Cc: Kimberly Troland
Subject: Keep the Farm Intact; Limit Housing to One Third of the Frontage

Dear Board of Selectmen,

We are writing to urge you vote to maintain the entirety of the Busa property as a community farm, with the exception of a small amount of thoughtfully-sited affordable housing.

Subdividing the land will decrease the farm's chances of success, and above all will betray the vision of the farm that has been so powerfully presented by a diverse and substantial cross-section of Lexington residents. We urge you to support this vision. Chopping the land up into pieces to try to placate every constituency in the town, until the land is reduced to trivial and piecemeal uses, will squander a unique opportunity that, once gone, will be gone forever. This land could become an extraordinary asset to the town of Lexington, a treasure in an era of passion for farmer's markets, organic produce, and local foods. In addition to being a local source of such foods, it could be an educational center, with classes in gardening, canning, historical farm life, and small farm animals for children and adults alike. This is not what Wilson Farms or any other local organization does.

With respect to affordable housing on the property, we urge you to limit housing along Lowell Street to, at most, one third of the frontage. Please consider: this farm field and its view is the single most beautiful thing we have in our entire neighborhood, indeed in all of East Lexington. We treasure it and take pride in it.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Jared Jenisch and Kim Troland,
23 Lowell Street

Lynne Pease

From: Janet Kern [janet@lexfarm.org]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:28 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Clarification of LexFarm position on affordable housing on Busa property

I would like to clarify LexFarm's position with respect to the location of affordable housing on the Busa property.

LexFarm's primary interest is to limit the impact on a potential community farm operation and minimize development of the undeveloped viewscape along Lowell Street in accordance with CPA guidelines.

Building no more than four units, divided between the farm stand and viewscape locations could be compatible with these goals: This could be divided into two units at each location, or a single-family home near the farmstand plus a single three-unit building on the viewscape.

In order to achieve the goal of minimizing development on the farmland at the view, the deed restriction on the south end of Lowell Street should define an area that is limited to 1/3 of the view or the area required for the single building, whichever is less.

Thank You-

Janet Kern
Lexington Community Farm Coalition

Lynne Pease

From: Carol Berker [ctrauner@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:32 PM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Vote for the Community Farm

I am disappointed that the issue of Busa Farm continues to drag on, years after the land purchase, recommendation from the Land Use Community, and Lexington residents' demonstrated support for a community farm.

I very much hope that tonight this issue will be put to rest and you will support a farm with a minimum of five tillable acres and open space dedicated to farm infrastructure. Housing units should be kept to a minimum. Once this farm is gone, it is gone forever. I am saddened that a town that prides itself on its past has so little interest in preserving some of that past for future generations. The farms are largely gone. The taverns are lovely museums. Busa Farm, operated as a working community farm, can provide a link to our agricultural past while offering such a unique learning experience today.

Sincerely,
Carol Berker
25 Charles Street
Lexington, MA 02421

Lynne Pease

From: Nina Braun [bostonnina@live.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 10:40 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Mixed use of Busa Farm

Dear Elected Selectmen of Lexington,

It is with much disappointment to learn of the potential to use the Busa Farm property for only affordable housing without the consideration of mixed and communial use of the property, specifically incorporating a proven asset such as community farming.

This is a decision made by elected officials of Lexington, may I remind you, officials elected by residents who are clearly not taking the majority interests of the public voters into consideration.

I do not need to go into the facts and out-pouring of positive outcomes from other towns in Massachusetts that have respected the last bit of available farm land for the benefit of the community. What I do need to reiterate is that using the Busa Farm property for affordable housing is not in the best interest of this vibrant community and it is esspecialy not in the interests of its residents to not even consider mix-use of the property.

It is appauling, as a long time resident of Lexington, to hear such news. Appauling that a town such as Lexington which prides itself on; its education system, involved and highly educated residents, and a well respected community, would not make an educated choice, a choice its residents are requesting for Busa Farm land.

I leave you with some basic known and documented facts about the benefits of communial farming including the benefits of incorporating communial farming within an affordable housing community. As elected officials, I hope you will make a wise and educated decision this evening and are already well aware of the following benefits.

Case Study in mixed use community that works - **Sandywoods Farm in Tiverton, RI:**
http://www.communitiestakeroot.com/?Brand=0

What other communities are doing:

http://brookwoodcommunityfarm.org/

http://www.fortlauderdalevegetables.com/

Regards,

A concerned, long-time Lexington resident

Lynne Pease

From: Cheryl [cheryl@ethelred.org]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:13 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: Busa Farm land

Dear Selectmen,

I live in Arlington, and so far I have resisted writing to you about the Busa Land since it's not my town. However, Busa Farm is about a quarter mile from my house, I have been a shareholder for two years, and I frequently walk with my daughter down the stretch of Lowell St where you have decided to situate at least some housing. So I do have a vested interest in what you decide to do with the land. And, primarily, I have a correction to make.

I've heard it said several times at the various meetings that the rocky slope along Lowell St is useless for farming and can therefore safely be converted to housing. I don't propose to speak to the viewscape argument. However, although this area of the farm is not suitable for traditional farm crops, that doesn't mean it can't be put to productive use.

For example, bayberry is a native shrub that grows in very difficult circumstances, and produces the berries used for making bayberry candles. And in fact, as I've walked down Lowell St, I've noticed what I believe to be a bayberry shrub growing on the slope down from Lowell. If the area were planted up with bayberries, the farm could produce bayberry candles as a holiday sales item (especially if they decide to also run beehives, another productive farm activity which could be done on less than ideal land). Another native plant which could be grown on the slope is New Jersey tea. This plant was used during colonial times as a substitute for imported tea. While there may not be a market for New Jersey tea as a product, the educational opportunities are obvious (and I don't think it's impossible to imagine a bag of dried tea leaves added to a farm share box, either). As an aside, both of these plants also have very high value to wildlife, so such plantings would be both productive and a huge conservation enhancement.

I haven't done extensive research into productive plants that would grow on the slope - these are just two examples off the top of my head, and I'm sure there are others. However, I hope they illustrate that land doesn't have to be tillable to be productive, and to say that the slope area is useless for a farm is an incorrect and unfair statement. Please don't make any decision on housing based on this inaccurate characterization.

Otherwise, I'll say that my ideal outcome for this decision process would be no more than 4 units of housing taking up no more than half of the Lowell St frontage (preferably less), with the rest of the land devoted to a community farm. I'm sure you've already heard all the arguments I would make, so I'll spare you them.

Thank you,
Cheryl Miller
Thesda St
Arlington

Lynne Pease

From: Jane Hammer [janemhammer@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:31 AM
To: selectmen's
Subject: please be careful

Dear Lexington Selectmen,
Please consider these thoughts as you make your decisions this week.

If you are doing an engineering study for feasibility of the soccer field, then you must examine a study of the farm's needs as well: how the acreage fits in, soil studies, drainage, etc. There are folks that know how to do this. For example, if you knew the farm, you would know that the proposed site for the small soccer field is right on the prime soil, the part of the farm that is first to dry up and be ready for the plow and planting in the spring and where the highest fertility seems to be (champion celery was grown there this past season, for example).

If the farm was given the chance to succeed for 10 years, this would not compromise other future uses any more than it does now. You could even give a year to year lease.

A farm would certainly be a vibrant source of recreation for all ages for at least 9 months of the year. By the way, the Natick Community Farm, a vital part of their community for some 30 years, has been considered part of the Natick Recreation Department!

This parcel of land and its users will suffer if treated in a piecemeal fashion. Instead of piecemeal decisions to try to please everyone, good planning is complicated but reaps rewards and keeps from pitting groups against each other.

Thanks,

Jane Hammer