

# Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens



## Background

The inspiration for a community greenhouse was an exchange of ideas about food security during online meetings of gardening enthusiasts during the early stages of the pandemic. The idea quickly gained momentum and a group decision was made to pursue the idea of bringing a community greenhouse to Chester.

At first the group envisioned raising money to purchase a modest greenhouse kit. In the early summer of 2020, an amazing opportunity presented itself. The group became aware of an historic Lord & Burnham greenhouse on the grounds of the Walpole, NH Village School. The contractor doing the work offered to donate the greenhouse if the group would agree to take possession of it within fourteen days.

The group hired an expert on Lord & Burnham greenhouses from Boston to come to Walpole and inspect the structure before it was dismantled. The expert confirmed that the greenhouse was structurally sound and was a unique and beautiful example of early galvanized steel and cast-iron greenhouses from the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. He further confirmed that the original clear glass panels had been replaced by polycarbonate plastic panels, but a restoration could be done to return the greenhouse to its original condition and that modern energy-efficient glazing could be added if an engineering study determined it compatible with the original structure.



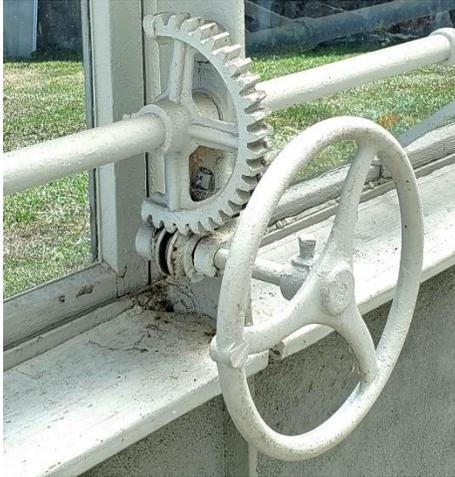
The group accepted the donation of the greenhouse and oversaw its disassembly and transportation to a donated storage site in Chester.

The heavy steel greenhouse components were unloaded in Chester, over the course of several days, by a group of enthusiastic volunteers who answered phone and social media calls for assistance.

### Volunteers unloading greenhouse frame in Chester.

The fees for transporting the greenhouse from Walpole to Chester were temporarily financed by members of the group.

## The Greenhouse



The group confirmed that the greenhouse was built in 1936, designed and manufactured by Lord & Burnham. It is 100' long and 32' wide. It is both remarkably functional and beautifully ornate. Rows of side vent windows run nearly the 100' length of the greenhouse operated by a system of iron wheels and gears. Roof vents are opened and closed using a manual chain driven device.

**Vent window mechanism, before disassembly, July 2020.**

The group located a photo (below) of the greenhouse taken in 1940 by Dale Woodward, the grandson of Herman and Alice Woodward, the couple who originally erected the greenhouse to serve as the centerpiece of the commercial Woodward nursery.

Dale Woodward, who still lives in Walpole, enthusiastically supports the relocation and restoration of the greenhouse to Chester and has offered to share stories of the early greenhouse owners and workers as part of a presentation once the greenhouse is operational.



**The greenhouse in its original location in Walpole, NH.**

Lord & Burnham designed and manufactured some of the world's most extraordinary greenhouses, including those at the New York Botanical Gardens and the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh.

The provenance of the Walpole greenhouse adds weight to its value as a potential architectural feature of the Chester landscape.



**Lord & Burnham Greenhouse at the Golden Gate Conservatory of Flowers in San Francisco.**

The group has confirmed that the original plans and drawings for the Walpole greenhouse are on file at the New York Botanical Gardens.

Because the Botanical Gardens archives are closed due to the Pandemic, we are waiting to retrieve those plans both to have an historical record of the unique structure but also to inform an engineering assessment that will determine what type of glazing could be applied to the structure to optimize its efficiency.

## The Group

Starting as an informal group of area residents interested in gardening, food security and climate change, Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens became a Vermont Non-Profit Corporation in July of 2020, thanks to the generous assistance of Chester attorney Bill Dakin.

In October of 2020, the organization was granted full non-profit status under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(C)3. The IRS has further designated Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens a Public Charity.

Assistance in filing for IRS non-profit status was generously provided by Ron Theisen of Fisher Financial Advisors, LLC of Chester.

### Mission Statement

*Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens is a non-profit, all volunteer community group committed to establishing, maintaining, and administering a community greenhouse in which the residents of Chester, VT can grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers in a healthy, safe, accessible, and supportive environment. Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens will work to align the greenhouse and its programs with efforts to address local food production, food security, holistic health, climate change, sustainability, education, access for seniors and those with disabilities, environmentally compatible economic development, and the overall quality of life of the residents of Chester.*

### Grants and Fundraising

The organization has received modest grants from the *Windham Foundation* and the *Vermont Community Foundation*, along with private donations that have allowed the project to move forward.

The organization continues to actively fundraise through its website:

[www.chestergreenhouse.org](http://www.chestergreenhouse.org) accepting donations through *PayPal*, credit cards and direct mail. A recent seed money campaign was successfully run via social media and email outreach.

The organization is working with the *Vermont Community Garden Network*, which is assisting in the development of operational documentation and ongoing fundraising. The organization is also discussing collaborative grant applications in partnership with *Edible Brattleboro*.

## Board of Directors

Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens has a five-person Board of Directors. They are listed below, along with their title and the expertise they bring to the project:

- **Cheryl Joy Lipton**/Director and President (Resident of Chester) – Ecology, organic growing, landscape design, sustainable living, community planning, solar energy.
- **Melody Reed**/Director and Secretary (Resident of Chester) – Organic growing, community building, climate science, solar energy, grant writing.
- **Robert Nied**/Director and Acting Treasurer (Resident of Chester) – Greenhouse growing, organic gardening, community planning, zoning and flood plain administration, large-scale project and budget management, non-profit administration, grant writing.
- **Luna Burkland**/Director – (Resident of Chester/Student at GMUHS) youth engagement, climate science and composting.
- **Tim Roper**/Director – (Resident of Chester) organizational leadership, solar energy, community planning.

## Special Advisor

**Lisa Holderness**/Educator – (Resident of Guilford, VT/teaches in Chester) GMUSD STEAM Coordinator, twenty-two years of experience in greenhouse growing, siting and management, farm to school connections.

## Consultants

- **Bill Orlando**/Lord & Burnham greenhouse expert – (Resident of Massachusetts) Specialist in the restorations and re-glazing of institutional and estate greenhouses dating back to the early 1900's.
- **Mark Ward**/ Lord Burnham Greenhouse Expert – (Resident of Massachusetts) Specialist in restoring old greenhouses and building new greenhouses, using recycled materials.
- **Hal Kuhns**/greenhouse builder – (Resident of Guilford, VT) Owner of Hawk of All Trades, Experienced greenhouse builder having previously collaborated with Mark Ward on greenhouse restoration projects.

All board members and advisors are unpaid volunteers. Consultants either have, or will be, compensated as the project moves forward.

Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens/PO Box 1271, Chester, VT 05143/[www.chestergreenhouse.org](http://www.chestergreenhouse.org)

## The Project

The conceptual project includes the restored Lord & Burnham greenhouse as a place for area residents to explore multi-season growing of vegetables, flowers, and herbs within allocated planting beds. At least part of the greenhouse will be accessible to anyone with physical limitations or disabilities. Additional exterior garden plots would be considered if the selected site can accommodate them. Ideally, the greenhouse will be located within walking distance to the Village Green and serve as a destination for residents and visitors alike.

### Project Goals & Community Benefits

Post pandemic, the greenhouse, and the surrounding gardens and landscape, will also serve as a gathering place in which inexperienced gardeners can be mentored by seasoned gardeners, students can learn about botany, horticulture, sustainability, and community resilience and everyone can develop a better understanding of the impact food production has on ecosystems and the global climate.

It will also be a place for experienced gardeners to expand their exploration of advanced growing techniques, seed saving and the preservation of heirloom varieties of vegetables, as well as culinary and medicinal herbs.

As greenhouse growers broaden their gardening experience and produce new and exiting ingredients, they will explore new culinary possibilities, which will in turn encourage them to grow still more new varieties, leveraging the idea that growing and cooking are mutually inspirational. Residents will be able to explore that connection with the help and guidance of experienced growers, Master Gardeners, and guest cooks.

The historic and esthetic qualities of the beautiful greenhouse structure and programs it will offer will enhance an already attractive downtown and add to quality of life that makes Chester such a wonderful town, attracting and helping retain new residents as well as seasonal visitors.

The greenhouse will build community resilience in difficult times and enhance the vibrancy of the community in the best of times. Programming and classes will include myriad aspects of gardening, from small kitchen gardens to large garden design, from starting and maintaining orchards, to building healthy soil.

In the aggregate, the greenhouse will be a hub for community building and an incubator for ideas about food, shared knowledge, and a sense of place.

## Project Phases

The project plan has three general phases, as follows:

- **Phase I** – Acquire a greenhouse, raise seed money, develop a web and social media presence, engage in community outreach, conduct an engineering analysis of the structure, identify a site, develop a site plan, obtain all required permits and approvals.
- **Phase II** – Raise larger foundation grants to fund site preparation, excavation and construction of a foundation, reassembly of the structure, adding efficient glazing, developing internal and supporting infrastructure (planting beds, soil, water supply, venting, etc.)
- **Phase III** – Develop administrative policies, procedures, and programs, develop sustainable operational funding models, allocate growing space, develop collaborative programs with local schools, manage volunteers, mentors, and teachers.

## Time Frames

The pandemic has, and will continue, to impact the project. Phase II will require the acquisition of considerable capital, through government and foundation grants, to cover the anticipated construction and retrofitting costs. Those costs are roughly estimated to be between \$150,000 and \$250,000. (Note: actual costs will be site and technology dependent.)

Given those challenges, the best-case scenario for the opening of the greenhouse is eighteen to twenty-four months from when a site has been secured.

## What the Project is Not

- A for-profit business
- A project that will compete with local businesses
- A short-term project
- A project looking for ongoing local taxpayer funding

## Location

Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens has developed the following high-level basic guidelines for the siting of the greenhouse:

- It should be walkable to the Village Green.
- It must be practically and esthetically compatible with the neighborhood.
- It must allow appropriate orientation to the sun.
- It must be compliant with all local, state, and Federal regulations.

## Site Search Committee

The organization has formed a Site Search Committee and developed a granular site-evaluation matrix that documents a series of criteria including the size and location of each potential site, their orientation to the sun, the feasibility of meeting set-back and other zoning requirements, their proximity to wetlands, river corridors, flood plains and other environmental constraints, their potential access to water and electricity, access to existing public parking (the organization wishes to encourage walking rather than driving, wherever possible), the presence of obstructions such as ledges and trees (the organization is seeking minimal disturbance of existing trees and brush, and the habitat of birds, small mammals and pollinators.)

To date the organization has evaluated, or is in the process of evaluating, eight potential sites, six on private property and two on public property. No determination has yet been made as to which site is preferred and no presumption has been made as to the availability of the sites.

## Site Acquisition Mechanisms

The organization is flexible in its approach to site acquisition. The preferred mechanism for private property use would be a donation of land or a long-term low-cost lease or deeded access.

The preferred mechanism for the use of public property would be an agreement, approved by the Town Attorney, which would allow the long-term use of the land for a clearly stated purpose, in a manner that is consistent with all local, state, and Federal regulations.

## Potential Sites Currently Being Evaluate

The sites reviewed thus far vary in suitability. Some contain significant obstacles others have issues that could be more easily overcome.

One, all or none of these locations may ultimately prove suitable. Additional sites will be added to the evaluation list if and when they are identified by the Site Search Committee, property owners or members of the public. Sites reviewed thus far are listed in **Table A**.

The inclusion of a site on the evaluation list shown in Table A **does not** imply that the site has been offered or requested, it is simply part of an exploratory process to identify sites that may be suited for the greenhouse, subject to a comprehensive review, agreement by the owner(s), support from the community and the projected feasibility and expense of project completion.

**Table A- List of potential sites reviewed to date.**

Property	Notes
Town property behind the <i>Chester Historical Society Building</i> , to the west of cemetery, parcel ID 575031, 3.86 acres.	Ideal central location, in close proximity to the Village Green, parking is readily available, would integrate well with Academy Building, cemetery, and Hearse Museum. Historic greenhouse is consistent with neighborhood character. Near proposed walking trails.
Private property behind <i>Buttonwood Farm</i> adjacent to Lovers Lane, 616 Main Street, parcel ID 565012, 86.5 acres.	Attractive location, architecturally appropriate with farm buildings. Proximity to Pinnacle and parking. 13-minute walk from the Green, via Lovers Lane. The property owner has been contacted through an intermediary caretaker. Owner has not yet responded.
Private property behind <i>St. Luke's Episcopal Church</i> , 313 Main Street, parcel ID 605012, .25 acres.	Great location on the green, available parking and close to EV charging stations. Proximity to soft ball field, may require protection for the structure. Lot is not wide enough to meet set back requirements without a lot line adjustments or a variance.
Town property on Canal Street, ( <i>Dan Davis Land &amp; Pump House</i> ), parcel ID 605031, 3.0 acres	Close proximity to the green, level site, no flood issues, proximity to parking. Greenhouse would occupy part of an open field and would be consistent with its current, informal recreational use. Town back-up well is also on the site.
Private property behind the <i>First Universalist Church</i> , 211 North Street, parcel ID 555020, 1.37 acres.	Not easily walkable from the green. Small in size, potential site is contiguous with a designated wetland area.
Private property behind <i>St. Joseph's Church</i> , 96 S. Main Street, parcel ID 605153, 5.09 acres.	Nice open field with room for additional gardens. Parking available. 7-minute walk from the green. Burlington Diocese interested; local clergy not supportive at this time.
(2) separate private properties on 1st Avenue.	Potential flooding issues on both parcels. Both owners contacted. In one case, the owner is supportive of the project and willing to help but not looking to donate property at this time. In the other case, no response has yet been received from the property owner.

Since the very nature of this proposed project is to serve the community, the community is encouraged to actively participate in the site selection process.

### **Next Steps**

Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens has three immediate priorities:

1. Locate a suitable site and negotiate the long-term use of that site with the property owner(s).
2. Contract an engineering study of the greenhouse to determine feasibility and cost of retrofitting the structure with high-efficiency glazing.
3. Develop a comprehensive site plan and an estimated budget for construction to inform the grant search and application process.

### **What is Requested of the Town of Chester?**

1. A general resolution of support for the project, subject to all required permitting and approvals.
2. Consideration of the use of Town property for siting the greenhouse if such a site is identified as the preferred site.

### **Excerpted Statements of Support**

“I have witnessed the growth of the CCG&G project from a simple idea to a thriving and sound non-profit organization with the proposed intent to establish a community greenhouse with outside gardening areas, while serving as a resource to the community by offering educational opportunities and addressing such issues as food insecurity, climate change, and sustainability. This endeavor will undoubtedly contribute to the economic well-being and growth.” –**Tom Bock**, Vermont State Representative, Windsor District 3-1

I look forward to being part of the Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens Project. I hope the town of Chester and the Select Board support this project in any way they can.”

- **Frank Kelley**, Chester-Andover Elementary School (CAES) Teacher, Chester Conservation Committee (CCC) Member, Chester Green Up Day Coordinator

“What a terrific project!” – **Robert Donald**, CEO/CFO, *The Windham Foundation*.

"Few callings could be higher than mentoring a new generation of growers - and in a world that needs more community, this wonderful project will serve as a great example. That the greenhouse is almost a century old reminds us that our forebears knew a lot about how to live on this planet; recapturing that knowledge and that spirit is a key part of insuring that we will thrive in the decades ahead." - **Bill McKibben**, Vermont author, educator, and Co-Founder of *350.org*.

"We are especially pleased to be able to support your organization and program during the COVID-19 crisis" - **Jennifer Barrett**, *The Vermont Community Foundation*.

"I wholeheartedly support Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens in their vision to bring a community greenhouse and garden to downtown Chester. This is a project I expect to serve as an example for other such groups and towns across the state of Vermont and the country. I can't wait to see it come to fruition!" - **Libby Weiland**, Statewide Network Coordinator, Vermont Community Garden Network

"Among the aspects of the project that merit the Town's support - aside from the obvious one of providing a very important service to citizens, both young and old - is the clarity of the organization's vision and the dedication of its members to bringing this rather complex undertaking to completion." - **Reverends Nicholas and Beverly Boke**

"Having owned an organic market and cafe in Chester Vermont for almost 15 years I am totally supportive of the restoration of the greenhouse project in Chester. It is amazing how this town can band together as a community. To have a place to grow organic food all year would be amazing. And an incredible learning experience for children as well as adults. This could be a template for other towns all over the United States. There is nothing more important than good health. And that starts with good food." - **Jackie Restmeyer**, Owner of the *Moon Dog Cafe*

"A community greenhouse and gardens will become an important asset to energize community and economic development and achievement of town goals." – **Carol Lighthall**, Executive Director, *Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce*

"I also support this effort as a resource for transferable skills, interdisciplinary and project based education, and vertical integration of knowledge." – **Dr. Andrew Malaby**, PhD., *Green Mountain Union High School*

**Letters/Emails of Support (as received)**



**STATE OF VERMONT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

January 11, 2021

Subject: Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens

Project To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure as State Representative of Windsor District 3-1, which includes Chester, to write a letter in support of the Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens project.

I have witnessed the growth of the CCG&G project from a simple idea to a thriving and sound non-profit organization with the proposed intent to establish a community greenhouse with outside gardening areas, while serving as a resource to the community by offering educational opportunities and addressing such issues as food insecurity, climate change, and sustainability.

This endeavor will undoubtedly contribute to the economic well-being and growth of the Chester area. The antique and historic nature of the greenhouse alone will serve as an attraction to both residents and visitors to Chester providing a place for people to socialize and explore the town's unique local businesses.

I fully endorse the efforts of CCG&G as they seek external funding to support a vision designed to benefit the community at large.

My Best Wishes for a Successful Venture,

State Representative Tom Bock,  
Windsor District 3-1  
PO Box 131, Chester, VT 05143 802-875-2222  
tmbock@vermon

January 4th, 2021

To: Julie Hance, Chester Town Manager  
The Chester Select Board

From: Frank Kelley  
Chester-Andover Elementary School (CAES) Teacher  
Chester Conservation Committee (CCC) Member  
Chester Green Up Day Coordinator

Re: Letter of Support for the Chester Community Greenhouse and Garden Project

The Chester Community Greenhouse and Garden (CCGG) Project is an exciting opportunity for the town of Chester. I have seen how gardens, community service, and people of all ages benefit from time outside with a purpose.

The CAES Grateful Garden has grown from six small, raised beds back in 2008 to eleven beds of varying height for students and community members of all ages. Throughout the years, students have had the opportunity to get their hands in soil, witness the transformation from seed to plant to fruit, and to be care-providers. These moments inspire our future farmers, scientists, craftspeople, and artists to build a strong connection to their food and to the land that supports it. The CCGG Project has the potential to expand this part of our students' education, taking it in new directions.

Students and the community benefit when students see themselves as contributing members of a project. Ownership, investment, and pride have been noticed as students participate in Green Up Day, tend the Grateful Garden, and work on the Town Forest Trail behind Brookside Cemetery. These community-based projects provide students with a way to contribute to the town. The more opportunities we can provide for students to do that, the better. The CCGG would be a perfect fit.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led many folks to spend more time outdoors. Recreation, gardening, walks, and more are essential. Locals and visitors alike play at the Pinnacle, hike around the Lost Mine Trail, and support businesses in town when they are finished. The CCGG Project has the potential to share knowledge, skills, and more with the community and others stopping by. With all these activities, the town of Chester benefits.

I look forward to being part of the Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens Project. I hope the town of Chester and the Select Board support this project in any way they can.

**The Reverends Nicholas and Beverly Boke**  
**50 Meadow Rd.**  
**Chester, VT 05143**  
**802-875-8483; nickboke@gmail.com**  
**December 30, 2020**

The Board of Selectmen  
Town of Chester  
PO Box 370  
Chester, VT 05143

Dear Selectboard Members,

We are writing to support the request by the Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens (CCGG) to locate a historic greenhouse on property within the village. The request comes with a larger commitment by the CCGG to renovate and maintain the Greenhouse, as well as provide training and mentorships to, as international environmentalist Bill McKibben put it, mentor “a new generation of growers.”

Among the aspects of the project that merit the Town’s support—aside from the obvious one of providing a very important service to citizens, both young and old—is the clarity of the organization’s vision and the dedication of its members to bringing this rather complex undertaking to completion. Such clarity and dedication bode well for the future of the project, indicating that support by the Town would not be wasted—this is not a fly-by-night group of starry-eyed idealists, but a knowledgeable group of people who know what they want to do, why, and how to do it.

Although we are new Chester residents, we have been involved in the town for decades. Both of us have regularly filled the pulpit of the First Universalist Parish of Chester (the “Stone Church”) since the early ‘90s, and Nicholas worked for the Chester-based Vermont Center for the Book until the late ‘90s. Our knowledge of and affection for the Town is longstanding.

Feel free to get in touch with us if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Nicholas and Beverly Boke



January 2, 2020

Robert Nied, Director, Acting Treasurer  
Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens  
Chester, Vermont 05143

Dear Robert,

Please accept this letter in support for the Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens Project.

This project, to me, represents many positive attributes to the Chester Community and its citizens. Here are a few aspects that come to mind:

- It becomes another great example of Chester citizens investing in the community's future.
- The project can offer interesting programs about associated history, horticulture and perhaps connections to growing one's own food.
- A project like this too will further enhance the community's richness and quality of life for the people who live and work there and strengthen the town's ability engage visitors and potential new residents.
- A community greenhouse and gardens will become an important asset to energize community and economic development and achievement of town goals.

I am in full support of this project and wish you much success. Please let me know how I can assist further.

Best regards,  
Carol Lighthall  
Executive Director

57 Pond Street, PO Box 333, Ludlow, VT  
05149  
Tel. 802-228-5830  
[www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com)

Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens/PO Box 1271, Chester, VT 05143/[www.chestergreenhouse.org](http://www.chestergreenhouse.org)





January 7, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

As Statewide Network Coordinator of the Vermont Community Garden Network I've been wholly encouraged by the incredible uprising of people growing gardens in the face of this past challenging year. In my work I well know the deep value of gardening, especially in community--the way such a simple act can provide for people's basic needs, lift spirits, and improve mental health, encourage an individual's confidence in the ability to care for themselves and their family, and actively foster healthier and more connected communities.

That's why, when I heard about the group in Chester working to develop a community greenhouse/garden space I was eager to jump on a call and see what I could do to help! This group is another inspiring story of citizens who saw the challenge, the division, and the increased need brought to light by the pandemic and put themselves to work on a project that would ease this past year's challenges by bringing a bright spot to their town, pulling people together, and lightening the load for their neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

I wholeheartedly support Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens in their vision to bring a community greenhouse and garden to downtown Chester. This is a project I expect to serve as an example for other such groups and towns across the state of Vermont and the country.

I can't wait to see it come to fruition!

Sincerely,  
Libby Weiland  
Statewide Network Coordinator  
Vermont Community Garden Network

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## GREEN MOUNTAIN UNION HIGH SCHOOL

716 VT-103  
Chester VT, 01543

January 7, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

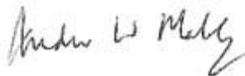
I submit this letter to express my full professional support for the Chester Community Greenhouse and Garden's efforts to build a multi-use local greenhouse in Chester, VT. Key aspects of the project underpinning this support are 1) building general knowledge about gardening within the local community as touchpoints within the classroom, 2) potential use as exploratory and experimental space to actively learn broad scientific concepts, and 3) use within the larger context of educational experience. This resource and community experience will serve to augment local science education through experiences inside and outside the classroom.

Within every plant is a model of science in all of its forms. Cellular machines use biochemical reactions to transmit energy and information in response to environmental factors using chemical and physical principles. The basic example of water comes to mind. Plants control cellular pumps, leading to spontaneous flow of water from soil to leaves in response to low water levels. Every component is an example of a general scientific principle. The pumps are made out of chemical building blocks and work through a reverse filtering process. And water moves through rocks, soil and plants based on chemical properties of water brought about by physical forces.

I also support this effort as a resource for transferable skills, interdisciplinary and project-based education, and vertical integration of knowledge. Hands-on skills in a garden are transferable in any labor market, whether the skills are sourcing and working with machinery, managing other people, strategizing plots and growing schedules, or speaking with stakeholders. Although the greenhouse would be a focal point in project-based learning for me, it also holds a pivotal place within interdisciplinary topics such as food insecurity, resource management, genetically modified foods, and climate change. And the greenhouse serves as a node continued education as students learn about the same topics through different lenses - zooming out, zooming in, and looking around - with the greenhouse as a constant resource.

In summary, the completion of this project would extend and expand educational opportunities and experiences regardless of the integration within the traditional classroom. I encourage your full support behind this committee's efforts.

Sincerely,



Dr. Andrew Malaby, PhD, MAT

January 5, 2021

To whom it may concern:

Having owned an organic market and cafe in Chester Vermont for almost 15 years I am totally supportive of the restoration of the greenhouse project in Chester. It is amazing how this town can band together as a community. To have a place to grow organic food all year would be amazing. And an incredible learning experience for children as well as adults. This could be a template for other towns all over the United States.

There is nothing more important than good health. And that starts with good food.

Thank you,

Jackie Restmeyer  
Moon Dog Café