

## MEMO

**To:** Sarah London  
**From:** Stephanie Smith  
**Date:** April 11, 2016



**Re:** Governor's Acceptance & Approval

Attached you will find a Governor's Acceptance for the Marquis Farm in Newport, Vermont. A memo outlining this project, maps, and a draft easement are included for your review. This conservation easement will not be co held by the VAAFM. The VAAFM will hold an executory interest (EI) granted to it by the VHCB, which will be filed in the Newport land records at the time the project closes. Included is the draft EI for your review. The "Approval and Acceptance" document for the Governor's signature changed also to reflect the EI.

In addition to the above change in farmland conservation projects, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) changed its process and procedures related to due diligence and Hazardous Material site investigations on proposed NRCS funded projects. Please see attached memo from Obediah Racicot, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs regarding this change.

As part of VAAFM's review of the conservation project in advance of your receipt we contacted the following resources to confirm there are no outstanding violations within VAAFM's divisions and inquired with the ANR Brownfields program, an additional step in assessing if there are hazard materials issue on the parcel.

- VAAFM
  - ARM Division – None
  - Consumer Assurance -None
    - Dairy
    - Animal Health
    - Meat
    - Consumer Protection
- ANR
  - Brownfields Division- None

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email ([stephanie.smith@vermont.gov](mailto:stephanie.smith@vermont.gov)) or phone if you have any questions (828-1732). Once signed please email me for pick up.

Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets  
116 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901  
[www.VermontAgriculture.com](http://www.VermontAgriculture.com)

**TO:** Peter Shumlin, Governor  
*Diane Battaglia Deputy Secretary*  
**FROM:** For Charles R. Ross, Jr., Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets  
**DATE:** April 13, 2016  
**RE:** Acquisition of Development Rights – Marquis, Newport

Your approval is requested for the executory interest in the development rights, conservation restrictions, option to purchase, and right of enforcement of the United States on 123.63 acres of farmland in Newport owned by Marc and Tiffany Marquis.

The Vermont Land Trust has notified the Newport Selectboard and the Northeastern Vermont Development Association about the plans for conservation and has received no objection.

#### **I. Description of Property**

Marc and Tiffany Marquis own and operate a certified organic dairy on Route 100 in Newport, just east of the Newport-Troy town line. They've been shipping Organic Valley milk since 2009 and are currently milking 80 cows with an overall herd of 120.

Last year, Marc and Tiffany took a big risk by purchasing 125.63 acres of cropland from Vermont Highland Cattle Company. The couple is very familiar with the land – it lies directly across the road from their home farm. In 2013, VHCC approached them with the chance to purchase the property before it went on the open market. Given the development pressure and rising land prices associated with EB-5 investment in Newport City and Jay Peak's expansion, Marc and Tiffany jumped at the opportunity to secure this land.

As VHCC did before them, Marc and Tiffany will keep the parcel entirely in hay production. The parcel represents critical tillage for them, and will reduce or eliminate the amount of rented land they need to sustain their operation. Nevertheless, the purchase represents a major investment for the Marquis family, and selling the development rights is crucial to making the land affordable for them and future farmers.

The project includes 114 acres of tillable land and 120 acres (99%) of prime and statewide agricultural soils – the only unrated soils are found on a very small section of woods. If conserved, the project will add to a conserved farm block that now totals 1,350 acres, and it would nearly connect this block to an even larger block just to the north (at almost 3,500 acres, the latter block is the largest in the Northeast Kingdom).



This project is being funded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) at NRCS. Not only does it lie in the Missisquoi subwatershed, one of the three priority drainages in the RCPP grant, but the property's fields were identified as "critical source areas" for phosphorus loading in an analysis conducted by Stone Environmental. Marc and Tiffany are conscientious when it comes to water quality – they are currently making major runoff improvements at the home farm under an EQIP contract. The easement property is traversed by two unnamed tributaries of Mud Creek; 14 acres of riparian land and associated wetlands are being enrolled in CREP and will receive permanent protection in the conservation easement.

Two acres of the property will be excluded from the easement to provide a future house site for Marc and Tiffany.

## **II. Need**

The sale of a conservation easement on this property will ensure that the land remains undeveloped and will enable Marc and Tiffany to pay down debt associated with their purchase of the property.

## **III. Source of Funds**

The purchase price for the easement with the option to purchase at agricultural value is \$109,000. VHCB approved a grant for this project in the amount of \$113,000 (\$109,000 for easement purchase and \$4,000 for third-party costs). Financial leverage for this conservation effort includes a \$76,000 bargain sale equal to 41% of the appraised value and 70% of the easement purchase price.

A landowner contribution is not required due to a bargain sale of over 5% of the easement value.

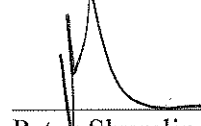
**APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF  
EXECUTORY INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS IN REAL PROPERTY**

Now come Peter Shumlin, Governor, and Charles R. Ross, Jr., Secretary, the undersigned, and hereby approve and accept from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board the Grant of Executory Interest in the property interest described within the instrument entitled "Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions, Option to Purchase, and Right of Enforcement of the United States" in land owned by Marc and Tiffany Marquis located in the Town of Newport, Vermont. The Grant of Executory Interest in the aforementioned property is granted to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and is to be recorded in the Land Records of the Town of Newport.

This action is taken pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor and the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets by Title 6, Chapter 1, Section 14 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.


4/19/16  
Date

STATE OF VERMONT

  
Peter Shumlin  
Governor

4/13/16  
Date

VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE,  
FOOD AND MARKETS

  
For Charles R. Ross, Jr.  
Secretary

*Deputy Secretary*

**GRANT OF EXECUTORY INTEREST**

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS that the **VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD**, a public instrumentality and agency of the State of Vermont with its offices in Montpelier, Washington County, Vermont, and its respective successors and assigns ("Grantor"), in consideration of Ten Dollars and other valuable consideration paid to its full satisfaction, does freely give, grant, sell, convey, assign, and confirm unto the **VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS**, an agency of the State of Vermont with its principal offices in Montpelier, Washington County, Vermont and its successors and assigns forever ("Grantee"), an executory interest in the property interest more particularly described as follows:

All those rights, interests and restrictions on 123.63 acres of land, more or less, in the Town of Newport (the "Property") conveyed to Grantor by instrument entitled "Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions, Option to Purchase, and Right of Enforcement of the United States," (the "Grant") dated of even date herewith and to be recorded in the Town of Newport Land Records (the "Land Records").

**A. COVENANTS.**

Grantor covenants and agrees as follows:

- 1) Grantor shall annually monitor the Property as required by the Grant to assure compliance with the Grant and shall, upon request, report the results of the monitoring to Grantee.
- 2) Grantor shall take all reasonable steps to secure compliance with the Grant as required therein.

**B. EXECUTORY INTEREST.** In the event that Grantor Vermont Housing and Conservation Board ceases to exist, and its rights, obligations and interests in the Grant have not otherwise been disposed of in accordance with law, then such rights, obligations and interests may shift to and be vested in Grantee, its successors and/or assigns. In such event, the Grantee shall provide to Grantor at its last known address and to the office of the Vermont Attorney General by certified mail, return receipt requested, a written notice of Grantee's intention to accept the Grantor's rights, obligations and interests under the Grant. Grantee may record a Notice of its acceptance of the Grantor's rights, interests and obligations under the Grant in the Land Records and thereupon Grantor's rights, obligations and interests under the Grant shall shift to and be immediately vested in the Grantee.

INVALIDATION of any provision hereof shall not affect any other provision of the Grant.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said granted executory interest, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereof, to the said Grantee, VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS, its successors and assigns, to their own use and behoof forever, and the said Grantor, VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD, for itself and its successors and assigns, does covenant with the said Grantee, its successors and assigns, that until the ensembling of these presents, it is a co-owner of the Grant and has good right and title to convey an executory interest in the same in the manner aforesaid, that the Grant is free from every encumbrance, except those of record, and it hereby engages to warrant and defend the same against all lawful claims whatever.

The party hereto has caused this Grant to be executed by its duly authorized agent.

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Duly Authorized Agent

STATE OF VERMONT  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, ss.

At Montpelier this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016, Lawrence W. Mires, duly authorized agent for Vermont Housing and Conservation Board., personally appeared and he acknowledged this instrument, by him sealed and subscribed, to be his free act and deed, and the free act and deed of Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

Before me,

\_\_\_\_\_, Notary Public

My commission expires: 2/10/19

# Vermont Land Trust

Marquis Farm  
Town of Newport  
Orleans Co., VT

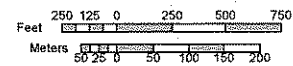
March 2016

VLT Project #131324 VHC# #2015-083

The Marquis Farm Conservation Plan is based on 2011 DigitalGlobe-Microsoft orthophotos.

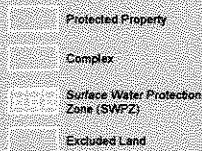
1:5,000

1 inch = 416.7 feet



## Reference(s):

- 1) "Plat of Survey for John Campbell & Roger Lussier in the Town of Newport, VT" by John A. Marsh, dated 6/1/1994.
- 2) "Plan of Lands of Dennis L. & Jacqueline Fortin, Town of Newport, Vermont" by Brow Surveying, dated April 1995.



West Complex  
± 1.0 acres

East Complex  
± 1.0 acres

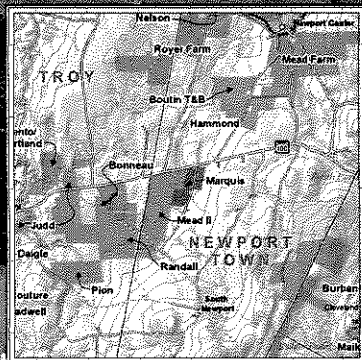
OUT

SWPZ

Excluded  
± 2.0 acres

SWPZ

SWPZ



## ACREAGE INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>

Tillable	105.1 acres
Pasture/Scrub	2.3 acres
Woods	2.5 acres
Complex	2.0 acres
Wetland	9.1 acres
Roadway	2.63 acres
<b>Total Protected Property</b>	<b>± 123.63 acres</b>
<b>Excluded Land</b>	<b>± 2.0 acres</b>

1. All acreage is approximate, and exclusive of public road rights of way.

This map is not a survey or subdivision plat, and should not be used or construed for such purposes. It was prepared without the benefit of field measurements or extensive title research. It is intended solely to assist the owner(s) of the conserved land and the holder(s) of the conservation easement in the administration and interpretation of the conservation easement by clearly depicting the presumed boundaries of the protected property, calculating the approximate acreages, and showing the approximate locations of any excluded lands, farmstead or homestead complex, farm labor housing complex, or special treatment areas.

**THIS MAP IS NOT A SURVEY**

## Reviewed and Accepted by:

Marc Marquis \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Tiffany Marquis \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Duly Authorized Agent of  
Vermont Land Trust, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



United States Department of Agriculture

March 29, 2016

Stephanie Ann Smith  
Chief Policy Enforcement Officer  
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets  
116 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620

**Subject: NRCS Due Diligence and Site Investigation Procedures**

Dear Stephanie,

This letter is being provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) in order to provide information on the processes and procedures that NRCS has in place concerning due-diligence and Hazardous Material (HazMat) site investigations on proposed NRCS funded conservation easements.

In general, NRCS will conduct a site visit, landowner interview, landowner disclosure, and HazMat field inspection on all projects proposed for enrollment. NRCS will also simultaneously conduct a HazMat record search using a report generated by an outside contractor. This site visit and record search will take place during the enrollment process and prior to USDA committing funds through a Cooperative Agreement.

If a site visit, landowner interview, or record search indicates a possible on-site or off-site condition that may put the US government at risk NRCS will not fund the acquisition of the easement. It can be assumed that any parcel that is listed as funded on a Cooperative Agreement entered into later than October 1, 2015 has followed this process and has been recommended for acquisition.

The activities listed above are not an exhaustive investigation and the US Government still reserves the right to conduct further inquiries into the suitability of a site once included on a Cooperative Agreement.

As of today's date, this policy is contained in NRCS Manual 440-CPM-Part 528.

Sincerely,

OBEDIAH RACICOT

Digitally signed by OBEDIAH RACICOT  
DN: cn=US, ou=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Agriculture,  
c=OBEDIAH RACICOT, o=9.2302.10002300.100.1.1+12021001129743  
Date: 2016.03.29 11:49:28 -0400

Obediah Racicot  
Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Vermont State Office  
356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105  
Colchester, VT 05446  
Voice 802-951-6796 Fax 855-794-3677  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

VICKY M. DREW  
State Conservationist

Enclosure:

cc:

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Vermont State Office  
356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105  
Colchester, VT 05446  
Voice 802-951-6796 Fax 855-794-3677  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



**Draft Date: 6/2/15; 10/29/15; 1/12/16; 1/27/16; 3/10/16**

**GRANT OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS, CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS,  
OPTION TO PURCHASE, and RIGHT OF ENFORCEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS that **MARC R. MARQUIS and TIFFANY J. S. MARQUIS** of Newport Center, County of Orleans, State of Vermont, on behalf of themselves and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns (hereinafter collectively "Grantor"), pursuant to Title 10 V.S.A. Chapters 34 and 155 and in consideration of the payment of Ten Dollars and other valuable consideration paid to Grantor's full satisfaction, do freely give, grant, sell, convey, and confirm unto the **VERMONT LAND TRUST, INC.**, a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Vermont, with its principal offices in Montpelier, Vermont, and qualified under Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code ("VLT"), and the **VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD**, a public instrumentality of the State of Vermont with its offices in Montpelier, Vermont ("VHCB"), and their respective successors and assigns (hereinafter collectively "Grantees") as tenants in common, forever, the development rights, option to purchase at agricultural value and a perpetual conservation easement and restrictions (hereinafter known as the "Grant") in certain lands consisting of 123.63 acres, more or less, with the buildings and improvements now or hereafter situated thereon (hereinafter "Protected Property") located in the Town of Newport, County of Orleans, State of Vermont, said Protected Property being more particularly described in Schedule A attached hereto and incorporated herein. Grantor also gives, grants, sells, conveys and confirms unto the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, by and through the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS" or "UNITED STATES") acting on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, as its interest appears herein, a right of enforcement for the purpose of forever conserving the agricultural productivity of the Protected Property and its value for resource preservation and as farmland.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ("ACEP"), 16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq., facilitated and provided funding for the purchase of this Grant, an agricultural land easement under ACEP, on the Protected Property for the purpose of protecting the agricultural use and future viability, and related conservation values, of the Protected Property by limiting nonagricultural uses of the Protected Property.

The development rights hereby conveyed to Grantees shall include all development rights except those specifically reserved by Grantor herein and those reasonably required to carry out the permitted uses of the Protected Property as herein described. The development rights and option hereby conveyed are rights and interests in real property pursuant to Title 10 V.S.A. §§ 823 and 6303. The conservation restrictions hereby conveyed to Grantees consist of covenants on the part of Grantor to do or refrain from doing, severally and collectively, the various acts set forth below, to the extent those acts relate to Grantor and not exclusively to Grantees. Grantor and Grantees acknowledge that the conservation restrictions constitute a servitude upon the land and run with the land. The Grantor and Grantees and their respective heirs, successors, agents, assigns, lessees, and any other person claiming under them shall comply with all terms, conditions and restrictions of this Grant.

**I. Purposes of the Grant & Agricultural Land Easement Plan.**

**A. Purposes of the Grant**

1. Consistent with the goals set forth in 10 V.S.A. §§ 821 and 6301, the Grantor, Grantees and the United States acknowledge that this Grant is acquired with its primary purpose being to protect in perpetuity the agricultural use and future viability of the Protected Property.

The primary purpose includes the purpose of promoting the sustainable management of soil resources in order to facilitate active and economically viable farm use of the Protected Property now and in the future.

2. Grantor, Grantees and the United States acknowledge the following secondary purposes: to conserve scenic, open space, wildlife habitat and other natural resources associated with the Protected Property; to improve the quality of life for Vermonters; and, to maintain for the benefit of future generations the essential characteristics of the Vermont countryside. Natural resource conservation includes, but is not limited to, landform and vegetation changes that may accommodate riparian, floodplain and wetland functions, and therefore protects natural flowages and stream equilibrium conditions.

3. The purpose of ensuring that working and productive agricultural lands remain available for production agriculture, affordable and owned by individuals actively engaged in farming will be further advanced by the Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value, as incorporated below.

4. These purposes will be advanced by conserving the Protected Property because it possesses the following attributes:

- a) 23 acres of agricultural soils of prime significance which is 19% of the Protected Property;
- b) 97 acres of agricultural soils of statewide significance which is 80% of the Protected Property;
- c) 5,710 feet of frontage on Tetreault Road and Vermont Route 100, public highways with scenic vistas;
- d) 9 acres of wetlands;
- e) in the vicinity of four (4) other properties previously protected by Grantees; and,
- f) traversed by 3,250 feet of two unnamed tributaries of Mud Creek.

Grantor and Grantees recognize these agricultural, silvicultural, scenic, ecological and natural resource values of the Protected Property, and share the common purpose of conserving these values by the conveyance of conservation restrictions, development rights, and option to purchase, to prevent the use, fragmentation, or development of the Protected Property for any purpose or in any manner which would conflict with the maintenance of these values. Grantor and Grantees also recognize that the objectives of ensuring that working and productive agricultural lands remain available for production agriculture, affordable and owned by persons actively engaged in farming will be further advanced by the Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value, as incorporated below. Grantees accept such conservation restrictions, development rights and option to purchase in order to conserve these values for present and future generations and to ensure resale of the Protected Property at its agricultural value.

The purposes set forth above in this Section I are hereinafter collectively referred to as "Purposes of this Grant."

#### B. Agricultural Land Easement Plan

1. As required by 16 U.S.C. Section 3865a, agricultural production and related uses of the Protected Property are subject to an Agricultural Land Easement Plan ("ALE Plan"), as

approved by NRCS, to promote the long-term viability of the land to meet the Purposes of this Grant. The ALE Plan, and any modifications or updates thereto, must also be approved by the Grantor and the Grantees. Grantor agrees the use of the Protected Property will be subject to the ALE Plan.

The ALE Plan is incorporated by reference and must not include any provisions inconsistent with the Purposes of this Grant. The Grantees and Grantor agree to update the ALE Plan in the event the agricultural uses of the Protected Property change. A copy of the current ALE Plan is kept on file with the Grantees.

The Grantees must take all reasonable steps to secure Grantor's compliance with the ALE Plan. In the event of substantial or ongoing noncompliance with the ALE Plan or the requirement to update the ALE Plan, NRCS may notify the Grantees. NRCS will give the Grantees and Grantor a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 180 days, to take corrective action. If Grantees fail to enforce the terms of this Grant, including, but not limited to compliance with the ALE Plan, the United States may exercise its right of enforcement.

## **II. Restricted Uses of Protected Property.**

Any activities inconsistent with the Purposes of this Grant are prohibited. The following activities are specifically prohibited, subject to the qualifications stated below:

1. *Residential Uses and Structures* - No residential activities shall be permitted, and no building, structure or appurtenant facility or improvement shall be constructed, created, installed, erected or moved onto the Protected Property, except as specifically permitted under this Grant.

2. *Industrial or Commercial Uses* - Industrial or commercial activities on the Protected Property are prohibited except for the following:

(i) agricultural production and related uses conducted in accordance with the ALE Plan;

(ii) the sale of excess electric power generated in the operation of renewable energy structures and associated equipment or other energy structures that Grantees approve in writing as being consistent with the Purposes of this Grant;

(iii) temporary or seasonal outdoor activities or events that do not adversely impact the agricultural use, future viability, and related conservation values of the Protected Property;

(iv) commercial enterprises related to agriculture or forestry including, but not limited to, agri-tourism, processing, packaging, and marketing of farm or forest products, farm machinery repair and small-scale farm wineries; and

(v) small-scale commercial enterprises compatible with agriculture or forestry, including but not limited to cafes, shops, and studios for arts and crafts.

3. *Construction on the Protected Property* - All new structures and improvements

must be located within the two (2) Complexes, containing approximately one (1) acre each and described in Schedule B which is appended to and made a part of this Grant, and is depicted on the Marquis Farm Plan described in Schedule A attached hereto and incorporated herein.

The boundaries and location of the Complexes may be adjusted, relocated and/or expanded if Grantees and the Chief of NRCS provide prior written approval of the changed boundaries and location. The adjusted, relocated or expanded Complexes may not increase in size and the adjusted Complexes must provide equal or greater protection of the agricultural use and future viability, and related conservation values of the Protected Property.

Utilities to serve approved buildings or structures, including on-farm energy structures allowed under Section II(2)(ii) or Section III(6), and agricultural structures that neither individually nor collectively have an adverse impact on the agricultural use and future viability and related conservation values of the Protected Property may be built outside of the Complexes with prior written approval of the Grantees provided that the utilities or agricultural structures are not inconsistent with the ALE Plan. Without limiting the foregoing, and with the prior written approval of Grantees, the Grantor may construct, maintain, repair, replace, relocate, improve and use systems for disposal of human waste and for supply of water for human consumption (collectively "Systems") on the Protected Property outside of the Complexes for the benefit of buildings or structures permitted in the Complexes, provided that such Systems comply with Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules or the then applicable law or regulations governing Systems. Grantor shall notify Grantees in writing prior to commencing construction on any new structure or improvement within the Complexes.

4. *Fallow Land* - Each time that the agricultural land on the Protected Property lies fallow for more than two successive years (the "fallow land"), Grantor shall cooperate with Grantees, at Grantees' request, to maintain the fallow land in an open condition (meaning without trees and brush) and in active agricultural use. For example, Grantor shall permit access to the fallow land by Grantees and Grantees' contractors to crop, mow, or brush-hog. No obligation is hereby imposed upon Grantor or Grantees to maintain the fallow land in an open condition or in active agricultural use.

5. *Granting of easements for utilities and roads* - Grantor shall not grant or modify easements for utilities and/or roads when the utility or road will adversely impact the agricultural use and future viability and related conservation values of the Protected Property as determined by the Grantees in consultation with the Chief of NRCS.

6. *Signage* - There shall be no signs, billboards, or outdoor advertising of any kind erected or displayed on the Protected Property. Grantor, however, may erect and maintain reasonable: (a) signs indicating the name of the Protected Property, (b) boundary markers, (c) directional signs, (d) signs regarding hunting, fishing, trapping, trespassing on the Protected Property or signs otherwise regarding public access to the Protected Property, (e) memorial plaques, (f) temporary signs indicating that the Protected Property is for sale or lease, (g) signs informing the public that any agricultural or timber products are for sale or are being grown on the Protected Property, (h) political or religious signs, or (i) signs informing the public of any activities approved pursuant to Section II(2) above. Grantees, with the permission of Grantor, may erect and maintain signs designating the Protected Property as land under the protection of Grantees.

7. *Waste and Dumping* – There shall be no accumulation or dumping of trash, refuse, sewage, junk or toxic materials on the Protected Property. This restriction will not prevent generally accepted agricultural or wildlife management practices, such as creation of brush piles, composting, or the storage of farm machinery, organic matter, agricultural products, or agricultural byproducts on the Protected Property.

8. *Surface Alteration* – Grading, blasting, filling, sod farming, earth removal or any other activity that will disturb the soil surface or materially alter the topography, surface or subsurface water systems, or wetlands of the Protected Property is prohibited, except as follows:

(i) dam construction to create ponds for agricultural use, fire protection, or wildlife enhancement, or wetland restoration, enhancement or creation, in accordance with the ALE Plan;

(ii) erosion and sediment control pursuant to a plan approved by the Grantees;

(iii) as required in the construction of approved buildings, structures, roads, and utilities provided that the required alteration has been approved in writing by Grantees as being consistent with the Purposes of this Grant; or

(iv) agricultural activities conducted in a manner not inconsistent with the ALE Plan.

9. *Oil, Gas, or Mineral Exploration and Extraction* – Mining or extraction of soil, sand, gravel, oil, natural gas, fuel, coal, or any other mineral substance owned by Grantor as of the date of this Grant or later acquired by Grantor, using any surface mining, subsurface mining, or dredging method, from the Protected Property is prohibited. In no case shall surface mining of subsurface oil, gas, or other minerals be permitted.

10. *Subdivision* – For purposes of this Grant, the Protected Property described in Schedule A hereto is considered to be one (1) parcel of land. Separate conveyance of a portion of the Protected Property or division or subdivision of the Protected Property is prohibited, except where state or local regulations explicitly require subdivision to construct residences for employees working on the Protected Property, or as may otherwise be permitted in Section II (11) below. Grantor shall provide written notice and evidence of such requirements to Grantees and the Chief of NRCS or his or her authorized designee (Chief of NRCS) prior to division of the Protected Property.

11. Except as provided in Section II (10) above and subject to Grantees' option rights under Section VIII below, the Protected Property shall not be partitioned, divided or subdivided into, or separately conveyed as, more than two farm parcels (one division allowed), nor shall ownership of the buildings on the Protected Property be separated from the ownership of the Protected Property, without the prior written approval of Grantees, which approval may be granted, conditioned or denied in Grantees' sole discretion. To protect the agricultural use and future agricultural viability and related conservation values of the Protected Property, the boundaries of such division must be approved in writing by Grantees and the Chief of NRCS or his or her authorized designee (Chief of NRCS) before any such division, subdivision or separate conveyance occurs. The Chief of NRCS may only approve the division, subdivision or separate

conveyance of the Protected Property into separately conveyable farm parcels when:

- a. The Grantees request the Chief of NRCS's approval to subdivide the Protected Property into separate farm parcels, after receiving a request from the Grantor;
- b. The Grantor certifies to the Chief of NRCS that the requested subdivision is required to keep all farm parcels in production and viable for agriculture use and that separate conveyance of the Protected Property farm parcels will move the land from one agricultural operation to another; and,
- c. The Chief of NRCS determines that the:
  - i. Parcels resulting from the subdivision of the Protected Property will meet ACEP land eligibility requirements of 16 U.S.C. § 3865 et seq. as enacted on the date the Protected Property was enrolled in ACEP, including the allocation of the impervious surface limitation between the subdivided parcels; and
  - ii. The resulting parcel will not be below the median size of farms in the county as determined by most recent United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistical Survey (NASS).

After Grantor receives written approval from Grantees and the Chief of NRCS, the Grantor shall give Grantees and the Chief of NRCS written notice prior to making a division of the Protected Property. Grantor shall pay Grantees an additional stewardship endowment in an amount consistent with Grantees' policies at the time that Grantor exercises its subdivision right pursuant to this Section II (11) as a consequence of creating separately owned farm units. The resulting parcels of land shall remain subject to this Grant.

12. *Limitation on Impervious Surfaces* -- Impervious surfaces will not exceed 2%, of the Protected Property, excluding NRCS-approved conservation practices. Impervious surfaces are defined as material that does not allow water to percolate into the soil on the Protected Property; including, but not limited to, residential buildings, agricultural buildings with or without flooring, paved areas, and any other surfaces that are covered by asphalt, concrete, or roofs. This limitation does not include public roads or other roads owned and controlled by parties with superior rights to those rights conveyed to Grantees by this Grant.

In the event the Protected Property is subdivided as provided for in Section II(11) the total cumulative impervious surface of the subdivided parcels shall not exceed the impervious limitation referenced above. The Grantor, with Grantees' approval, shall allocate the impervious surface limit among the subdivided parcels and ensure said impervious surface limitation is clearly defined in each subdivided parcel's recorded instrument.

### **III. Permitted Uses of the Protected Property.**

The provisions of this Grant and associated schedules will not be interpreted to restrict the types of agricultural operations that can function on the Protected Property, so long as the agricultural operations are not inconsistent with the ALE Plan. Permitted uses of the Protected Property include the specific uses allowed pursuant to Section II(2) above and the following activities, subject to the qualifications stated below:

1. *Agricultural Production* - The production, processing, and marketing of agricultural crops and livestock is permitted provided it is conducted in a manner not inconsistent with the terms of the ALE Plan.

2. *Forest Management and Timber Harvest* - Forest management and timber harvesting is permitted, provided all forest management and timber harvesting is carried out in accordance with all applicable local, State, Federal, and other governmental laws and regulations and to the extent reasonably practicable, in accordance with current, generally accepted best management practices for the sites, soils, and terrain of the Protected Property. In addition, forest management and timber harvesting, other than for conducting maple sugaring operations using existing woods roads and as otherwise provided below, must be performed in accordance with a written forest management plan, prepared by a professional resource manager, and approved by the Grantees. Grantees' approval of forest management plans that may be submitted from time to time shall not be unreasonably withheld or conditioned, if such plans have been approved by a professional forester and if such plans are consistent with the Purposes of this Grant. If the Protected Property contains contiguous forest that exceeds the greater of 40 acres or 20 percent of the Protected Property, the forest management plans must be included as a part of the ALE Plan required under Section I, above. Forest management plans may include a forest stewardship plan, as specified in section 5 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a); another practice plan approved by the State Forester; or, another plan determined appropriate by the State Conservationist. Grantor shall obtain Grantees' prior written approval to clearcut forest land to establish fields, orchards or pastures. Grantees' approval shall not be unreasonably withheld if such clearcutting is consistent with the Purposes of this Grant.

A forest management plan will not be required for the following permitted non-commercial activities: (i) cutting of trees for the construction of permitted roads, utilities, buildings and structures on the Protected Property, (ii) cutting of trees for trail clearing, (iii) cutting of trees for domestic use as firewood, or for other domestic uses by Grantor, (iv) removal of trees posing an imminent hazard to the health or safety of persons or livestock, or (v) removal of invasive species.

3. *Non-Developed and Non-Consumptive Recreation and Educational Activities* - Recreational and educational activities that are both non-developed, non-motorized and non-consumptive are permitted if they do not adversely impact the soils and the agricultural operations, and are consistent with the Purpose of this Grant. Non-commercial snowmobiling may be permitted at the discretion of Grantor.

4. *Road Construction and Maintenance* - New roads may be constructed if they are within impervious surface limits and necessary to carry out the agricultural operations or other permitted uses on the Protected Property and are approved in advance by Grantees. Maintenance of existing roads documented in the Baseline Documentation Report is permitted; however, existing roads may not be widened or improved unless widening and improving is within impervious surface limits and necessary to carry out the agricultural operations or other permitted uses on the Protected Property, and is approved in advance by Grantees.

5. *Fences* - Fences may be maintained and replaced and new fences installed if they are necessary for agricultural operations on the Protected Property, to protect the SWPZ as

provided in Section V. below, or to mark boundaries of the Protected Property.

6. *On-Farm Energy Production* - Renewable energy production is allowed for the purpose of generating energy for the agricultural and residential needs of the Protected Property. Renewable energy sources must be approved by Grantees', in their sole discretion, and at a minimum shall be built and maintained within impervious surface limits, with minimal impact on the conservation values of the Protected Property and consistent with the Purposes of this Grant, as determined by Grantees.

7. For the purpose of providing housing exclusively for Grantor who is engaged in farming operations on the Protected Property or for persons employed by the Grantor in farming operations on the Protected Property, and for the employee's family or household members, as a nonmonetary benefit of farm employment, the right to construct, use, maintain, repair, renovate, replace, enlarge and rebuild farm labor housing which may be within an existing building or a new building (the "FLH") together with appurtenant non-residential structures and improvements, including drives, utilities, and water and wastewater systems normally associated with a residence; provided, however, that prior to construction, renovation, replacement, enlargement or rebuilding Grantor shall obtain Grantees' written approval which, in Grantees' sole discretion, may be withheld or given subject to such conditions as the Grantees deem appropriate, if Grantor demonstrates to Grantees' satisfaction that the FLH or alteration thereto is:

- a) necessary to the current and reasonably foreseeable farm business on the Protected Property in order to facilitate the active and long-term economically viable agricultural use of the Protected Property; and
- b) located within [the Farmstead Complex or] a Complex as described in Section II(3) or, if not located within [the Farmstead Complex or] a Complex, that there are specific reasons why the proposed location is necessary to the current and reasonably foreseeable farm business on the Protected Property and otherwise consistent with the Purposes of the Grant; and
- c) designed and sized to be no larger than is necessary to meet the needs of the current and reasonably foreseeable farm business on the Protected Property and to ensure that the Protected Property remains available for production agriculture, affordable and owned by persons actively engaged in farming; and
- d) otherwise consistent with the Purposes of the Grant.

If the FLH is not needed for farm labor housing in the future, temporary alternative uses of the structure deemed by the Grantees in their sole discretion to be consistent with the Purposes of this Grant may be permitted with the prior written approval of the Grantees.

8. In connection with any activities permitted pursuant to Section II(2) of this Grant, the right to maintain, repair, enlarge, replace and use permitted structures with associated utility services, drives and appurtenant improvements within a Complex. Grantees may approve a new, non-residential, structure for such activities only if an existing structure is not suitable and the new structure is:

- a) fewer than 1500 square feet as an exterior measure of the footprint and no more than 25 feet from the lowest undisturbed ground level to the roof peak;
- b) inclusive of all storage space so that no part of the business is conducted outside



- of the structure;
- c) of a nature, intensity, scope, size, appearance, type and quantity compatible with the existing agricultural structures;
- d) located in a way that minimizes negative impact on future operations and expansion of agricultural uses; does not interfere with current agricultural operations; and, does not displace farm or forestry storage, use or functions;
- e) non-residential; and,
- f) not inconsistent with the Purposes of this Grant.

No use or structure contemplated under this Section III (8) shall be commenced, constructed or located without first securing the prior written approval of Grantees, which approval Grantees may deny or condition in their sole discretion. All structures and uses shall conform with all applicable local, state and federal ordinances, statutes and regulations. Grantees' approval may be conditioned upon, without limitation, receipt of copies of any necessary governmental permits and approvals that Grantor obtains for such use or construction. Grantees shall not approve a new structure for a non-agricultural commercial or industrial activity unless the proposed structure meets factors (a) through (f), above. However, Grantees may waive factors (a), (b) or (c) if the Grantees determine that the unique circumstances of the situation warrant waiver and approval.

9. *Other Allowed Uses* – Other uses may be allowed if they do not harm the agricultural use and future viability, and related conservation values of the Protected Property, are consistent with the Purposes of this Grant, and approved in advance by Grantees, in their sole discretion.

10. The right to construct, maintain, repair, replace, relocate, improve and use systems for disposal of human waste and for supply of water for human consumption (collectively "Systems") on the Protected Property for the first single-family residence located on the 2 acre parcel of land owned by the original Grantor herein at the date of this Grant but excluded from the Protected Property under Schedule A hereto ("Exclusion"). Any such Systems may be constructed, maintained, operated, repaired, replaced, relocated or improved on the Protected Property only if there does not exist within the Exclusion any suitable location for such Systems, under the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules or the then applicable law or regulations governing Systems (collectively "the Rules"), as determined by a person authorized to make such determination under the Rules retained at Grantor's sole cost and expense. Grantor shall first obtain the written approval of Grantees for the location, relocation, replacement or improvement of such Systems on the Protected Property, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld nor conditioned, provided that:

- a) All reasonable attempts to locate, relocate, replace or improve the Systems within the Exclusion in a manner that complies with the then current Rules are exhausted; and
- b) Such Systems are located in a manner consistent with the Purposes of this Grant and especially minimize the loss of agricultural soils; and,
- c) Such Systems are designed by a person authorized to do so under the Rules retained at Grantor's sole cost and expense, certified by such person as complying with the Rules, installed in compliance with the Rules, certified by person authorized to do so under the Rules as being installed in accordance with the certified design and approved in accordance with all the then applicable

Rules.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Section II(5) of this Grant, after Grantor has obtained Grantees' approval for a System serving the Exclusion, Grantor shall have the right to convey legal access to the successor owners of the Exclusion for construction, operation and maintenance of the System as an appurtenance only to the Exclusion.

11. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the right to construct, use, maintain, repair and replace one (1) camp being no more than fifteen (15) feet high as measured from the average undisturbed ground level to the roof peak and no more than 600 square feet in total useable floor area, or, in the alternative, one (1) tent platform, lean-to or Adirondack shelter not to exceed 300 square feet in area provided, however, that any such structure shall be used exclusively for non-commercial, periodic camping, hunting and recreational purposes, and not for permanent occupancy; shall not have commercial utility services or an access road improved beyond what is minimally required to afford reasonable vehicular access; and shall be located on non-agricultural land but not within the Special Treatment Area described in Section IV, below. Grantor shall notify Grantees in writing prior to commencing the placement, construction or relocation of such permitted structure or access so that Grantees may review and approve the proposed location and dimensions of the camp and access, in order to ensure that the dimensions of the structure are in compliance with this section and the camp and access are located in a manner consistent with the Purposes of this Grant. In addition, Grantor may place a limited number of small hunting blinds on the Property in order to carry-out permitted hunting activities, provided that the location of such blinds must be consistent with the Purposes of this Grant.

12. *Other Allowed Uses* – No use shall be made of the Protected Property, and no activity thereon shall be permitted which is or is likely to become inconsistent with the Purposes of this Grant. Grantor and Grantees acknowledge that, in view of the perpetual nature of this Grant, they are unable to foresee all potential future land uses, future technologies, and future evolution of the land and other natural resources, and other future occurrences affecting the Purposes of this Grant. Grantees, therefore, in their sole discretion, may determine whether (a) proposed uses or proposed improvements not contemplated by or addressed in this Grant, or (b) alterations in existing uses or structures, are consistent with the Purposes of this Grant.

#### **IV. Farmland Surface Water Protection Zone.**

Those areas on the Protected Property that serve to buffer perennial streams and wetlands, and also the areas within said vernal pools and wetlands themselves, are designated as a farmland Surface Water Protection Zone (hereinafter "SWPZ"). The location of the SWPZ is generally represented as "SWPZ" on the Marquis Farm Plan; provided, however, that the boundaries of the SWPZ may be changed from time to time by mutual agreement of Grantors and Grantees, as established by a written agreement recorded in the East Montpelier Land Records and depicted on a new Farm Plan signed by Grantors and Grantees.

Within the SWPZ, the goals, prescriptions and restrictions of this Section IV are in addition to the provisions of Sections III, and where inconsistent, the provisions of this Section IV shall control.

1. The principal goal of this Grant within the SWPZ is the protection of surface waters and wetlands, in part through the establishment and maintenance of a high quality naturally

vegetated buffer. The SWPZ provides an array of ecological benefits including but not limited to:

- a) protecting aquatic and wetland plants and animals from disturbance;
- b) preventing wetland and water-quality degradation;
- c) providing important terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal habitat; and
- d) providing organic matter, nutrients, shade, and large diameter coarse woody debris for the benefit of wetland, riparian, and aquatic systems.

2. Within the SWPZ, there shall be no agricultural (including without limitation the grazing or pasturing of animals) activities, except as may be approved in Grantees' sole discretion. Without limiting the foregoing, all activities within the SWPZ shall be consistent with the goals set forth in Section IV(1) above.

#### **V. Enforcement of the Covenants and Restrictions.**

Grantees shall make reasonable efforts from time to time to assure compliance by Grantor with all of the covenants and restrictions herein. In connection with such efforts, Grantees may make periodic inspection of all or any portion of the Protected Property, and for such inspection and enforcement purposes, Grantees shall have the right of reasonable access to the Protected Property. In the event that a Grantee becomes aware of an event or circumstance of non-compliance with this Grant, such Grantee shall give notice to Grantor and the other Grantees of such event or circumstance of non-compliance, and with respect to Grantor such notice shall be via certified mail, return receipt requested, and demand corrective action by Grantor sufficient to abate such event or circumstance of non-compliance and restore the Protected Property to its previous condition. If Grantees, in their sole discretion, determine that the event or circumstance of noncompliance requires immediate action to prevent or mitigate significant damage to the conservation values of the Protected Property as provided in the Purposes of this Grant, then Grantees may pursue their rights under this enforcement section without prior notice to Grantor. In the event there has been an event or circumstance of non-compliance which is corrected through negotiation and voluntary compliance, but which has caused Grantees to incur extraordinary costs, including without limitation staff time and professional consultation costs, in investigating the non-compliance and securing its correction, Grantor shall, at Grantees' request, reimburse Grantees for all such costs incurred in investigating the non-compliance and in securing its correction.

Failure by Grantor to cause discontinuance, abatement, or such other corrective action as may be demanded by Grantees within a reasonable time after receipt of notice and reasonable opportunity to take corrective action shall entitle Grantees to bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Grant and to recover any damages arising from such non-compliance. Such damages, when recovered, may be applied by Grantees to corrective action on the Protected Property. If the court determines that Grantor has failed to comply with this Grant, Grantor shall reimburse Grantees for any reasonable costs of enforcement, including court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, in addition to any other payments ordered by such court. In the event that a Grantee initiates litigation and the court determines that Grantor has not failed to comply with this Grant and that one or more of Grantees have initiated litigation without reasonable cause or in bad faith, then the Grantee(s) who commenced the court proceedings shall reimburse Grantor for any reasonable costs of defending such action, including court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees; provided, however,

that this clause shall not apply to the United States.

Grantor is responsible for the acts and omissions of persons acting on their behalf, at their direction or with their permission, and Grantees shall have the right to enforce against Grantor for events or circumstances of non-compliance with this Grant resulting from such acts or omissions. However, as to the acts or omissions of third parties other than the aforesaid persons, Grantees shall not have a right to enforce this Grant against Grantor unless Grantor: (i) is complicit in said acts or omissions, (ii) fails to cooperate with Grantees in all respects to halt or abate the event or circumstance of non-compliance resulting from such acts or omissions, or (iii) fails to report such acts or omissions to Grantees promptly upon learning of them. Nor shall Grantees institute any enforcement proceeding against Grantor for any change to the Protected Property caused by natural disasters such as fire, flood, storm or earthquake.

Grantees shall have the right, but not the obligation, to pursue all legal and equitable remedies against any third party responsible for an event or circumstance of non-compliance with this Grant and Grantor shall, at Grantees' direction, assign their right of action against such third party to Grantees, join Grantees in any suit or action against such third party, or appoint a Grantee their attorney in fact for the purpose of pursuing an enforcement suit or action against such third party.

The parties to this Grant specifically acknowledge that events and circumstances of non-compliance constitute immediate and irreparable injury, loss, and damage to the Protected Property and accordingly entitle Grantees to such equitable relief, including but not limited to, injunctive relief, as the court deems just and appropriate. The remedies described herein are in addition to, and not in limitation of, any other remedies available to Grantees at law, in equity, or through administrative proceedings.

No delay or omission by Grantees in the exercise of any right or remedy upon any breach by Grantor shall impair Grantees' rights or remedies or be construed as a waiver. Nothing in this enforcement section shall be construed as imposing a liability upon a prior owner of the Protected Property, when the event or circumstance of non-compliance occurred after termination of said prior owner's ownership of the Protected Property.

## **VI. Protection of the United States of America's Interests.**

1. *United States Right of Enforcement.* Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. Section 3865 et seq., the United States is granted the right of enforcement that it may exercise only if the terms of this Grant are not enforced by Grantees. The Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (the Secretary) or his or her assigns, on behalf of the United States, may exercise this right of enforcement under any authority available under State or Federal law if the Grantees, or their successors or assigns, fail to enforce any of the terms of this Grant, as determined in the sole discretion of the Secretary.

In the event the United States exercises this right of enforcement, it is entitled to recover any and all administrative and legal costs associated with any enforcement or remedial action related to the enforcement of this Grant from the Grantor, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees and expenses related to Grantor's violations. In the event the United States exercises this right of enforcement, and to the extent not recovered from the Grantor first, it is entitled to recover any and all administrative and legal costs associated with any enforcement of

this Grant from the Grantees, including, but not limited, attorney's fees and expenses related to Grantees' violations or failure to enforce the Grant against the Grantor.

The Grantees will annually monitor compliance and provide the United States with an annual monitoring report that documents that the Grantees and Grantor are in compliance with the Grant and the ALE Plan. If the annual monitoring report is insufficient or is not provided annually, or if the United States has evidence of an unaddressed violation, as determined by the Secretary, the United States may exercise its right of inspection. For purposes of inspection and enforcement of the terms of this Grant, the ALE Plan and the United States Cooperative Agreement with the Grantees, the United States will have reasonable access to the Protected Property with advance notice to Grantees and Grantor or Grantor's representative. In the event of an emergency, the United States may enter the Protected Property to prevent, terminate, or mitigate a potential or unaddressed violation of these restrictions and will give notice to Grantees and Grantor or Grantor's representative at the earliest practicable time.

2. *General Disclaimer.* The United States, its employees, agents, and assigns disclaim and will not be held responsible for Grantees' or Grantor's negligent acts or omissions or Grantees' or Grantor's breach of any representation, warranty, covenant, or agreements contained in this Grant, or violations of any Federal, State, or local laws, including all Environmental Laws (as defined below) including, without limitation, those that give rise to liabilities, claims, demands, losses, expenses, damages, fines, fees, penalties, suits, proceedings, actions, costs of actions, or sanctions asserted by or on behalf of any person or governmental authority, and other liabilities (whether legal or equitable in nature and including, without limitation, court costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees and attorneys' fees on appeal) to which the United States may be subject or incur relating to the Protected Property.

3. *Environmental Warranty.* Grantor warrants that it is in compliance with, and shall remain in compliance with, all applicable Environmental Laws. Grantor warrants that there are no notices by any governmental authority of any violation or alleged violation of, non-compliance or alleged non-compliance with or any liability under any Environmental Law relating to the operations or conditions of the Protected Property. Grantor further warrants that it has no actual knowledge of a release or threatened release of Hazardous Materials, as such substances and wastes are defined by applicable Federal and state law.

Moreover, Grantor hereby promises to hold harmless and indemnify Grantees and the United States against all litigation, claims, demands, penalties and damages, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising from or connected with the release or threatened release of any Hazardous Materials on, at, beneath or from the Protected Property, or arising from or connected with a violation of any Environmental Laws by Grantor or any other prior owner of the Protected Property. Grantor's indemnification obligation shall not be affected by any authorizations provided by Grantees or the United States to Grantor with respect to the Protected Property or any restoration activities carried out by Grantees at the Protected Property; provided, however, that Grantees shall be responsible for any Hazardous Materials contributed after this date to the Protected Property by Grantees.

"Environmental Law" or "Environmental Laws" means any and all Federal, state, local or municipal laws, rules, orders, regulations, statutes, ordinances, codes, guidelines, policies or requirements of any governmental authority regulating or imposing standards of liability or standards of conduct (including common law) concerning air, water, solid waste, hazardous materials, worker and community right-to-know, hazard communication, noise, radioactive material, resource protection, subdivision, inland wetlands and watercourses, health protection and similar environmental health, safety, building and land use as may now or at any time hereafter be in effect.

"Hazardous Materials" means any petroleum, petroleum products, fuel oil, waste oils, explosives, reactive materials, ignitable materials, corrosive materials, hazardous chemicals, hazardous wastes, hazardous substances, extremely hazardous substances, toxic substances, toxic chemicals, radioactive materials, infectious materials, and any other element, compound, mixture, solution or substance that may pose a present or potential hazard to human health or the environment.

## **VII. Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value.**

Grantees shall have an option to purchase the Protected Property at its agricultural value in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Section VII ("this Option"). This Option is an integral part of this Grant and constitutes a restriction and a right and interest in real property that runs with the land. This Option shall be perpetual in duration and is given on the following terms and conditions.

1. **Option Trigger.** Grantor shall not sell, transfer or convey the Protected Property, in whole or in part, without first offering the Protected Property for sale to Grantees pursuant to this Section VII; provided, however, that the following described transactions shall not trigger Grantees' rights under this Option:

- a) Any mortgage, pledge, or other assignment of the Protected Property to a lender as security for indebtedness, provided the Grantees' interest under this Option is treated as an interest in real estate such that in the event of foreclosure Grantees are deemed necessary parties defendant in such foreclosure case and have the right to redeem the Protected Property from the foreclosure action; and
- b) Any conveyance by the Grantor to Grantor's family, as the latter term is defined in Section VIII(9) below, by gift, inheritance, sale or other transfer; and
- c) Any conveyance of the Protected Property to a person who presently earns at least one-half of his or her annual gross income from the "business of farming," as that term is defined in Regulation 1.175-3 issued under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and who, in connection with the farming operations on the

Protected Property, will continue to earn at least one-half of his or her annual gross income from the "business of farming" ("a Qualified Farmer"); and

- d) Any lease to a Qualified Farmer or a lease having a term of 15 years or less, including renewal rights; provided, however, that any such lease shall expressly provide that, unless otherwise agreed by Grantees, the lease shall terminate and possession shall be delivered free and clear of any rights of the tenant upon a closing of the sale of the Protected Property following exercise of this Option.

This Option shall apply to all other sales and conveyances of the Protected Property, including any sale or conveyance of any interest in the Protected Property including any conveyance by, or conveyance of any interest in a corporation, limited liability company, partnership or other holding entity.

2. **Notice of Intent to Sell.** Whenever Grantor receives an offer from a person or persons ("Buyer") to purchase or lease for a term in excess of fifteen (15) years, including renewal rights, all or any part of the Protected Property including an offer involving property other than the Protected Property ("the Offer"), and Grantor accepts the Offer subject to this Option, Grantor shall deliver to Grantees at their principal places of business by certified mail, return receipt requested, a Notice of Intent to Sell, which notice shall include:

- a) A complete duplicate of the Offer, together with such other instruments as may be required to show the bona fides of the Offer; and
- b) A written description of the Buyer's training and experience as an agricultural producer and an agricultural business plan for the Protected Property, including a description of the agricultural activities to be conducted or facilitated by Buyer, proposed improvements to the Protected Property, and a statement of anticipated agricultural income and expenses for the three-year period following Buyer's acquisition of the Protected Property or, if Buyer has no such training and experience or intention of operating an agricultural business on the Protected Property, a written statement to that effect; and
- c) If the Buyer is purported to be a Qualified Farmer or family member, the documents necessary to establish the Buyer as such, including the Buyer's most recent federal income tax filing, if applicable; and
- d) The Grantor's current mailing address.

Information delivered to Grantees pursuant to this clause shall remain confidential and shall not be released to any person or entity not a party to this Grant, without the prior consent of Grantor.

- 3. **Exercise of Option.** This Option may be exercised by Grantees as follows:

- a) A Grantee shall give written Notice of Intent to Exercise not more than thirty (30) days following receipt of the Notice of Intent to Sell described in Section VII(2); failure by a Grantee to provide such notice shall constitute a waiver of its rights under this Option; and
- b) Thereafter, Grantor and Grantee shall fix the purchase price for the Protected Property by establishing a Price Agreement in the manner described in Section VII(4), below.
- c) A Grantee shall exercise this Option by giving written Notice of Intent to Purchase not more than thirty (30) days following Grantor's and Grantee's establishment of the Price Agreement.

Notices required by this Section VII(3) shall be delivered to Grantor either personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested to the address provided by Grantor in the Notice of Intent to Sell described in Section VII(2), above. In the event that both Grantees exercise this Option, the Vermont Land Trust, Inc. shall have first priority, and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board second priority. The Grantee with highest priority which exercises this Option is hereafter referred to in Sections VII(4), (5) and (6) as "Grantee."

4. **Purchase Price.** The Purchase Price shall be determined by mutual agreement of Grantor and Grantee; provided that if no such agreement can be reached, the purchase price of the land only shall be the greater of:

- a-1) \$170,000 plus an inflation adjustment determined by multiplying the foregoing value by 1 (one) plus the fractional increase calculated from the date hereof in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, Northeast, All Items published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, or a successor index published by the United States government to the date of the Offer; or
- a-2) The full fair market value of all Protected Property land subject to the Offer (including the site of any structures) assuming its highest and best use is commercial agricultural production commonly occurring within the market area where the Protected Property is located on the date of the Offer, as determined by a mutually approved disinterested appraiser selected by Grantor and Grantee, with the expense of such appraisal divided equally between Grantor and Grantee. Permanently installed land improvements, such as in-ground irrigation systems, farm roads, and drainage tiling shall be considered part of the land. This appraisal shall take into consideration the permitted and restricted uses set forth in, and the impact on value caused by the Grant.



With respect to any agricultural, forestry or minor incidental structures and improvements in existence as of the date of the Offer, then in addition to the foregoing land value, the Purchase Price shall also include:

- b) The value of all such structures and improvements on the Protected Property as of the date of the Offer excluding all land (which is included in the Section VII(4)(a) valuation, above). The value of the structures and improvements shall be determined using the replacement cost approach to valuation (i.e., the cost to replace the structures and improvements with those of comparable size and utility, less depreciation and functional obsolescence) by a mutually approved disinterested appraiser selected by Grantor and Grantee, with the expense of such appraisal divided equally between Grantor and Grantee.

With respect to any residence(s) in existence as of the date of the Offer, then in addition to the foregoing land value, the Purchase Price shall also include:

- c) The value of the residence and its appurtenant structures and improvements as of the date of the Offer excluding the value of the land upon which these structures sit (which is included in the Section VII(4)(a) valuation, above). The value of the residence and appurtenant structures and improvements shall be determined using the replacement cost approach to valuation (i.e., the cost to replace the residence, structures and improvements with those of comparable size and utility, less depreciation and functional obsolescence) by a mutually approved disinterested appraiser selected by Grantor and Grantee, with the expense of such appraisal divided equally between Grantor and Grantee.

Grantor and Grantee shall establish the Purchase Price by either entering into a written agreement fixing the Purchase Price as provided in this Section VII(4), within ten working days of reaching mutual agreement or, if no such agreement is reached, the Purchase Price shall be based upon the appraised values which shall be the Purchase Price unless another Purchase Price is mutually agreed upon in writing by the parties within ten working days after the last party's receipt of the appraisals. The passage of said ten working days shall constitute the effective date of establishing the Purchase Price. ("Price Agreement")

5. **Entry onto the Protected Property.** After receiving the notice from Grantor described in Section VII(2), above, and upon reasonable notice to the Grantor, the Grantee shall have the right to enter upon the Protected Property from time to time for the purpose of preparing for the purchase and disposition of the Protected Property, including but not limited, to preparing appraisals, conducting soils tests or engineering studies, advertising, showing prospective buyers or assignees, or obtaining other information about the Protected Property. Grantee's entry onto or testing of the Protected Property shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes any disturbance to the land and to the use and enjoyment of the Protected Property by the Grantor or any tenants in possession.

6. **Closing of the Purchase.** If this Option is exercised, the parties shall close on the sale on or before thirty (30) days from the delivery of the Notice of Intent to Purchase described in Section VII(3)(c), above, unless otherwise agreed. The following conditions shall apply to said closing:

- a) Grantor shall, by Vermont Warranty Deed, deliver good, clear, record and marketable title to the Grantee, free of all liens or other encumbrances (including discharge or release of outstanding mortgages), sufficient for the Grantee to secure title insurance at Grantee's sole expense. Grantee agrees to accept title subject to: (i) customary utility distribution easements, (ii) rights of the public to use roads laid out by municipalities, the state or federal government, (iii) rights of way and other easements that do not, in the Grantee's opinion, materially impair beneficial use of the Protected Property; and, (iv) the terms and conditions of this Grant. The state of title to the Protected Property shall be determined by a title examination paid for by the Grantee.
- b) Grantor agrees to use reasonable efforts to deliver marketable title as set forth in Section VII(6)(a), above. In the event Grantor is unable to give marketable title, then the Grantee may elect to terminate its exercise of this Option. The Grantee shall have the right to elect to accept such title as Grantor can deliver and to pay the purchase price without reduction.
- c) Grantor agrees to obtain at their sole expense any and all permits and approvals required under law or regulation for the conveyance of the Protected Property to Grantee under this Option. The parties shall extend the closing date as necessary to enable Grantor to obtain all such final permits and approvals.
- d) Grantor represents to Grantee that Grantor is not aware of any hazardous waste having been dumped or placed upon the Protected Property. Grantor will update this representation in writing upon the Grantee's delivery of the Notice of Intent to Exercise described in Section VII(3)(a), above. Grantor agrees that the Grantee may, at the Grantee's expense, perform any and all tests and/or inspections necessary to confirm these representations. In the event that the Grantee discovers that hazardous wastes have been dumped or placed upon the Protected Property, the Grantee may at the Grantee's option declare its exercise of this Option to be null and void.
- e) The Grantor and the Grantee shall prorate property taxes as of the date of closing.
- f) The Grantor shall not physically alter the Protected Property or the improvements on the Protected Property or enter into any lease after a Grantee delivers the

Notice of Intent to Exercise provided in Section VII(3)(a), above, and while the Grantee may purchase pursuant thereto, except to perform generally accepted agricultural practices and normal repairs. In the event any structure is substantially destroyed by fire or other casualty, Grantee may elect to (1) proceed to closing and accept the proceeds of any insurance policy Grantor may have with respect to such destruction; or (2) if such insurance proceeds are less than the value of the structure as determined under Section VII(4), above, proceed to closing and accept the proceeds of said insurance policy and reduce the purchase price by the difference between such value and insurance proceeds; or (3) withdraw its election to exercise this Option.

- g) The Protected Property shall be conveyed free of all leases, tenancies, tenants and occupants, unless Grantee otherwise agrees in writing.
- h) All personal property, livestock, machinery and equipment not included in the sale shall be removed from the Protected Property, and all other waste and debris shall be removed from the Protected Property prior to closing. Grantor and Grantee will jointly inspect the Protected Property 24 hours prior to closing.
- i) After closing, this Option shall remain in full force and effect with respect to all subsequent conveyances of the Protected Property, except as identified in Section VII(1), above.

7. **Partial Release of Option.** At the request of Grantor, Grantees shall execute a partial release of their rights under this Option Agreement ("the Partial Release"), and upon the first to occur of the following events, the Grantees shall immediately deliver the Partial Release to the Newport Town Clerk for recording in the Newport Land Records:

- a) Grantees' failure to deliver the Notice of Intent to Exercise as described in Section VII(3)(a), above;
- b) Grantees' failure to deliver the Notice of Intent to Purchase as described in Section VII(3)(c), above; or
- c) Grantees' election to terminate its exercise of this Option based on title defects as provided in Section VII(6)(b), hazardous materials as provided in Section VII(6)(d), or destruction of structures as provided in Section VII(6)(f).

Should no Grantee exercise this Option as provided in Section VII(3), above, or should a Grantee fail to close following its delivery of the Notice of Intent to Purchase, Grantor may proceed to close on the sale to the Buyer on the terms and conditions described in the Notice of Intent to Sell, within twelve (12) months of the delivery of said Notice to Grantees. Provided, however, this Option shall remain in full force and effect with respect to all subsequent conveyances of

the Protected Property, except as identified in Section VII(1) above.

8. **Partial Assignment by Grantees.** A Grantee may partially assign its rights under this Option, provided:

- a) No such assignment shall be made prior to Grantor and Grantee establishing the Price Agreement described in Section VII(4), above;
- b) Such assignment shall be in writing, with the assignee undertaking to discharge all obligations of Grantee with respect to purchase of the Protected Property, and a copy of the written assignment shall be delivered to Grantor;
- c) The assignee shall be a party which, in the reasonable opinion of the Grantee, will use or will facilitate the use of the Protected Property for commercial agricultural production; and
- d) The partial assignment shall pertain only to a single exercise of this Option in response to a discrete Notice of Intent to Sell delivered to Grantees. While no consent of Grantor shall be required for said single exercise, no Grantee shall otherwise assign all of its rights and interests under this Option without the prior written consent of Grantor.

### **VIII. General Provisions.**

1. Where Grantor is required, as a result of this Grant, to obtain the prior written approval of Grantees before commencing an activity or act, and where Grantees have designated in writing another organization or entity which shall have the authority to grant such approval, the approval of said designee shall be deemed to be the approval of Grantees. Grantor shall reimburse Grantees or Grantees' designee for all extraordinary costs, including staff time, incurred in reviewing the proposed action requiring Grantees' approval; but not to include those costs which are expected and routine in scope. Upon the request of Grantor, Grantees shall deliver to Grantor, in written recordable form, any approval, disapproval, election, or waiver given by Grantees pursuant to this Grant.

2. Grantor agrees that the construction of any buildings, structures, or improvements, or any use of the land otherwise allowed under this Grant, or the subdivision and separate conveyance of any land excluded from this Grant in Schedule A attached hereto, shall be in accordance with all applicable ordinances, statutes, and regulations and at Grantor's sole expense.

3. It is further agreed that the Protected Property is accurately depicted and described in both the Marquis Farm Plan and a Baseline Documentation Report ("BDR") signed by the original Grantor on or about the date of this Grant and held by Grantee VLT, on behalf of all Grantees. Grantees may use the Marquis Farm Plan or BDR in enforcing this Grant, but are not limited in their use of the Marquis Farm Plan and BDR to show a change of conditions.

4. Grantees shall transfer the development rights, option to purchase, and conservation easement and restrictions conveyed by Grantor herein only to a State agency, municipality, or qualified organization, as defined in Chapter 34 or Chapter 155 Title 10 V.S.A., in accordance with the laws of the State of Vermont and the regulations established by the Internal Revenue Service governing such transfers.

5. *Extinguishment, Termination and Condemnation.* This Grant constitutes a real property interest immediately vested in the Grantees. If circumstances arise in the future that make the achievement of the purposes of this Grant impossible or impractical to accomplish, this Grant may be extinguished or terminated in whole or in part only in accordance with the laws of the State of Vermont and, as applicable, the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. In addition, the interests and rights under this Grant may only be extinguished or terminated with the written approval of the Grantees and the United States. Due to the Federal interest in this Grant, the United States must review and approve any proposed extinguishment, termination, or condemnation action that may affect its Federal interest in the Protected Property.

With respect to a proposed extinguishment, termination, or condemnation action Grantees and the United States stipulate that the fair market value the Grant is fifty-two percent, hereinafter the "Proportionate Share," of the fair market value of the land unencumbered by this Grant. The Proportionate Share has been determined at the time of conveyance of this Grant by dividing the fair market value of this Grant (\$185,000.00) by the fair market value of the Property without this Grant (\$355,000.00). The Proportionate Share will remain constant over time.

If this Grant is extinguished, terminated, or condemned, in whole or in part, then the Grantor must reimburse Grantees and the United States an amount equal to the Proportionate Share of the fair market value of the land unencumbered by this Grant. The fair market value will be determined at the time all or part of this Grant is terminated, extinguished, or condemned by an appraisal that meets the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) or Uniform Acquisition Standards or Federal Land Acquisition (UASFLA). The appraisal must be completed by a certified general appraiser and be approved by the Grantee and the United States.

The allocation of the Proportionate Share between the Grantees and the United States must be as follows: (a) to the Grantees or their designee(s), twenty-five percent of the Proportionate Share; and, (b) to the United States seventy-five percent of the Proportionate Share. Until such time as the Grantees and the United States receive the Proportionate Share from the Grantor or the Grantor's successor or assign, the Grantees and the United States each have a lien against the Protected Property for the amount of the Proportionate Share due each of them. The Grantees or their designee(s) must use their allocation of the Proportionate Share in a manner consistent with the conservation purposes of the Grant. If proceeds from termination, extinguishment, or condemnation are paid directly to Grantees, the Grantees must reimburse the United States for the amount of the Proportionate Share due to the United States.

6. In any deed or lease conveying an interest in all or part of the Protected Property, Grantor shall make reference to the conservation easement, restrictions, and obligations described herein and shall indicate that said easement and restrictions are binding upon all successors in interest in the Protected Property in perpetuity. Grantor shall also notify Grantees of the name(s) and address(es) of Grantor's successor(s) in interest.

7. Grantees shall be entitled to re-record this Grant, or to record a notice making reference to the existence of this Grant, in the Town of Newport Land Records as may be necessary to satisfy the requirements of the Record Marketable Title Act, 27 V.S.A., Chapter 5, Subchapter 7, including 27 V.S.A. §§603 and 605.

8. While title is herein conveyed to Grantees as tenants in common, the rights and interests described in this Grant, including enforcement of the conservation easement and restrictions, may be exercised by Grantees collectively, or by any single Grantee individually; provided, however, that court enforcement action by a single Grantee shall foreclose action on the same issue(s) by the other Grantees who shall be bound by the final determination.

9. The term "Grantor" includes the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns of the original Grantor, Marc R. Marquis and Tiffany J. S. Marquis. The term "Grantees" includes the respective successors and assigns of the original Grantees, VLT and VHCB. The term "family" includes: (a) any spouse of Grantor and any persons related to Grantor by blood to the 4th degree of kinship or by adoption, together with spouses of family members, (b) a corporation, partnership or other entity which is wholly owned and controlled by Grantor or Grantor's family (as defined herein), (c) any estate of Grantor or Grantor's family, and (d) all owners of a Grantor corporation, partnership, trust or other entity who are related to each other by blood to the 4th degree of kinship or by adoption, together with spouses of family members.

10. Grantor shall pay all real estate taxes and assessments on the Protected Property and shall pay all other taxes, if any, assessed in lieu of or in substitution for real estate taxes on the Protected Property.

11. Grantor shall indemnify and hold harmless Grantees, their employees, agents, and assigns for any and all liabilities, claims, demands, losses, expenses, damages, fines, fees, penalties, suits, proceedings, actions, costs of actions, or sanctions asserted by or on behalf of any person or governmental authority, and other liabilities (whether legal or equitable in nature and including, without limitation, court costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees and attorneys' fees on appeal) to which Grantees may be subject or incur relating to the Protected Property, which may arise from, but are not limited to, Grantor's negligent acts or omissions or Grantor's breach of any representation, warranty, covenant, or agreements contained in this Grant, or violations of any Federal, State, or local laws, including all Environmental Laws (as defined below).

12. If any Grantee takes legal title to Grantor's interest in the Protected Property, the Grantee acquiring title shall commit the monitoring and enforcement of the Grant to another Grantee until the Grantee acquiring title conveys title to a successor Grantor.

13. This Grant is created pursuant to Chapter 34 of Title 10, Conservation and Preservation Rights and Interests (10 V.S.A. 821-823) and Chapter 155 of Title 10, Acquisition of Interests in Land by Public Agencies (10 V.S.A. 6301 – 6309), and this Grant shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Vermont to effectuate the Purposes of the Grant. In the event that any provision or clause in this Grant conflicts with applicable law, such conflict shall not affect other provisions hereof which can be given effect without the

conflicting provision. To this end the provisions of this Grant are declared to be severable.

14. *Amendment.* This Grant may be amended only if, in the sole and exclusive judgment of the Grantees and United States, by and through the Chief of NRCS, such amendment is consistent with the Purposes of this Grant and complies with all applicable laws and regulations. The Grantees must provide timely written notice to the Chief of NRCS of any proposed amendments. Prior to the signing and recordation of the amended Grant, such amendment(s) must be mutually agreed upon by the Grantees, Grantor, and United States, by and through the Chief of NRCS. Any purported amendment that is recorded without the prior approval of the United States is null and void.

15. *Boundary Line Adjustments.* Boundary line adjustments may be permitted by Grantees either by approval or by amendment. The approval of only the Grantees is required in the case of an amendment or other action related to boundary adjustments: (i) for technical errors made in the survey or legal description of the Protected Property; or (ii) where the acreage of the Protected Property will be increased; or (iii) where the acreage of the Protected Property will not decrease by the greater of 1% of its original acreage or 2 acres. All other boundary line adjustments must also be approved by the United States by and through the Chief of NRCS. If necessary, an amendment to Schedule A of this Grant shall be properly executed and duly recorded.

INVALIDATION of any provision hereof shall not affect any other provision of this Grant.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said granted development rights, option to purchase, and a perpetual conservation easement and restrictions, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereof, to the said Grantees, **VERMONT LAND TRUST, INC.**, and **VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD**, their respective successors and assigns, and the UNITED STATES and its assigns to the extent of its enforcement rights, to their own use and behoof forever, and the said Grantor, **MARC R. MARQUIS and TIFFANY J. S. MARQUIS**, for themselves and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, does covenant with the said Grantees and the UNITED STATES, their successors and assigns, that until the ensealing of these presents, they are the sole owners of the premises, and have good right and title to convey the same in the manner aforesaid, that the premises are free from every encumbrance, except those of record, not intending hereby to reinstate any interest or right terminated or superseded by this Grant, operation of law, abandonment or 27 V.S.A. Ch. 5, Subch. 7; and they hereby engage to warrant and defend the same against all lawful claims whatever, except as aforesaid.

We herein set our hands at \_\_\_\_\_, Vermont this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

GRANTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc R. Marquis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tiffany J. S. Marquis

STATE OF VERMONT  
ORLEANS COUNTY, ss.

At Newport, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016, Marc R. Marquis and Tiffany J. S. Marquis personally appeared and they acknowledged this instrument, by them sealed and subscribed, to be their free act and deed, before me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: 02/10/2019

**VERMONT LAND TRUST, INC. ACCEPTANCE**

The Vermont Land Trust, Inc. hereby acknowledges, approves, and accepts, the foregoing Grant and the rights and obligations conveyed therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Duly Authorized Agent

STATE OF VERMONT  
COUNTY OF ORLEANS, SS.

At \_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, duly authorized agent of the Vermont Land Trust, Inc., and he/she acknowledged this instrument, by him/her sealed and subscribed, to be his/her free act and deed and the free act and deed of the Vermont Land Trust, Inc., before me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: 02/10/2019

**VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD ACCEPTANCE**

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board hereby acknowledges, approves, and accepts, the foregoing Grant and the rights and obligations conveyed therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_



Date

Its Duly Authorized Agent

STATE OF VERMONT  
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, SS.

At Montpelier, Vermont on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, duly authorized agent of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and he/she acknowledged this instrument, by him/her sealed and subscribed, to be his/her free act and deed and the free act and deed of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, before me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 02/10/2019

=====

**SCHEDULE A**  
**PROTECTED PROPERTY**

Being all and the same lands and premises, with any and all structures and improvements that may be situated thereon, conveyed to Grantor by warranty deed of Vermont Highland Cattle Company, LLC, dated February 24, 2014, and recorded in Book 31 WD, Page 13 of the Town of Newport Center Land Records.

**Excepted and excluded** from this description of the Protected Property is the following parcel of land:

1. A two-acre parcel depicted on a survey entitled "Subdivision Boundary Survey Prepared For Mark and Tiffany J. S. Marquis 3325 Vermont Route 100, Newport Center, VT 05857 Of Property Located On Tetreault Road Newport Town, Orleans County, Vermont, Deed Book 31 WD, Pages 13-18, Tax Map 7, Parcel ID NO. 10033326, dated 11/13/2015, by horizens Engineering and to be recorded on or near even date herewith.

Meaning and intending to include in this description of the Protected Property all of the land with the improvements thereon lying on both sides of Town Highway #22 (also known as Tetreault Road), in the Town of Newport, Vermont, **except as excluded above**, and generally described as containing 123.63 acres, more or less.

**NOTICE:** Unless otherwise expressly indicated, the descriptions in this Schedule A and in any subsequent Schedules are not based on a survey or subdivision plat. The Grantor and Grantees have used their best efforts to depict the approximate boundaries of the Protected Property and any excluded parcels, complexes or ecological protection zones on a plan entitled "**Vermont Land Trust** – Marquis Farm, Town of Newport, Orleans Co., VT, \_\_\_\_\_ 2016" signed by the Grantor and **VLT** (referred to throughout this Grant and its Schedules as "Marquis Farm Plan"). The Marquis Farm Plan is based upon Vermont Base Map digital orthophotos and other information available to VLT at the time of the Plan's preparation. Any metes and bounds descriptions included in the Schedules herein are approximate only. They are computer generated and are not the result of field measurements or extensive title research. The Marquis Farm Plan and any metes and bounds descriptions herein are intended solely for the use of the Grantor and Grantees in establishing the approximate location of the areas described and for administering and interpreting the terms and conditions of this Grant. No monuments have been placed on the ground. The Marquis Farm Plan is kept by VLT in its Stewardship Office. **The Marquis Farm Plan is not a survey and must not be used as a survey or for any conveyance or subdivision of the land depicted thereon.**

Grantor and Grantees do not intend to imply any limitation on the area of land included in this description, should a survey determine that additional land is also encumbered by the Grant. If, in the future, the Grantor or Grantees shall prepare a survey of the Protected Property, of any portion thereof, or of any excluded lands, and that survey is accepted by the other party or confirmed by a court, the descriptions in the survey shall control.

Reference may be made to the above described deed and record, and to the deeds and records referred to therein, in further aid of this description.

=====

**SCHEDULE B  
COMPLEXES**

The two "Complexes" referred to in Section II(3) of this Grant each contain 1 acre, more or less, and are more particularly described as follows:

- 1) A one acre parcel located on the easterly side of Tetreault Road depicted as "East Complex" on the Marquis Conservation Plan, and is more particularly described as follows, all bearings are referenced to "Grid North:"

Beginning at a point on the easterly edge of the Tetreault Road right of way (assumed 3 rods wide), said point being South 09° West a distance of 565 feet, more or less, from the intersection of the centerline of Vermont Route 100 with the centerline of Tetreault Road; thence proceeding  
South 78° East a distance of 160 feet, more or less, across the Protected Property to a point; thence turning at a right angle and proceeding  
South 12° West a distance of 275 feet, more or less, across the Protected Property to a point; thence turning at a right angle and proceeding  
North 78° West a distance of 160 feet, more or less, across the Protected Property to a point on the easterly edge of the Tetreault Road right of way; thence turning and proceeding  
North 12° East a distance of 275 feet, more or less, along the easterly edge of the Tetreault Road right of way to the point of beginning.

- 2) A one acre parcel located on the westerly side of Tetreault Road depicted as "West Complex" on the Marquis Conservation Plan, and is more particularly described as follows, all bearings are referenced to "Grid North:"

Beginning at a point on the westerly edge of the Tetreault Road right of way (assumed 3 rods wide), said point being South 14° West a distance of 565 feet, more or less, from the intersection of the centerline of Vermont Route 100 with the centerline of Tetreault Road, said point also being North 78° West a distance of 50 feet, more or less, from the northwest corner of the East Building Envelope; thence proceeding  
South 12° West a distance of 275 feet, more or less, along the westerly edge of the Tetreault Road right of way; thence turning at a right angle and proceeding  
North 78° West a distance of 160 feet, more or less, across the Protected Property to a point; thence turning at a right angle and proceeding  
North 12° East a distance of 275 feet, more or less, across the Protected Property to a point; thence turning and proceeding  
South 78° East a distance of 160 feet, more or less, across the Protected Property to the point of beginning.



# Natural Resources Atlas

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

vermont.gov

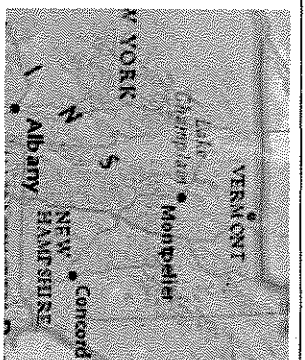


1: 6,586  
March 25, 2016



335.0  
0 168.00 335.0 Meters  
MGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator\_Auxiliary\_Sphere  
© Vermont Agency of Natural Resources  
1" = 549 Ft. 1cm = 66 Meters  
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

DISCLAIMER: This map is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. ANR and the State of Vermont make no representations of any kind, including but not limited to, the warranties of merchantability, or fitness for a particular use, nor are any such warranties to be implied with respect to the data on this map.

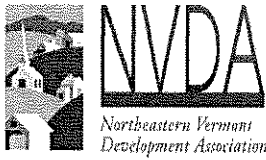


## LEGEND

- Hazardous Site
- Hazardous Waste Generators
- Brownfields
- Salvage Yard
- Town Boundary

## NOTES

Map created using ANR's Natural Resources Atlas



March 6, 2015

Vermont Land Trust  
P.O. Box 850  
Richmond, VT 05477

Dear Britt Haselton:

The Northeastern Vermont Development Association supports the VHCB's proposed purchase of development rights for the following farm and forest properties in the Northeast Kingdom Towns of Newport, Morgan, St. Johnsbury and Waterford:

Mark & Tiffany Marquis - Newport, VT  
Richard & Helen Morin - Morgan, VT  
Edith Patenaude Trust - St. Johnsbury and Waterford, VT

Agriculture and forestry have long been important sectors of the region's economy, and we expect this will continue into the future. The proposed purchase of development rights on these properties furthers our regional vision of "compact villages surrounded by working farms and forests". The proposed project also furthers the following land use goals identified in the 2013 *Regional Plan for the Northeast Kingdom*:

1. Farming and agriculture should remain an important and viable sector of the regional economy.
2. Contiguous tracts of prime agricultural soils should be preserved.
3. Sustainable forestry should remain an economically viable tool to preserve woodlands, open space for recreation, and local character.

NVDA would like to thank VHCB and all parties involved for working to protect Vermont's most valuable land resources.

Sincerely,

David Snedeker  
Executive Director  
Northeastern Vermont Development Association

# TOWN OF NEWPORT

OFFICE OF CLERK AND TREASURER

P.O. Box 85

Newport Center, Vermont 05857

Tel./Fax (802) 334-6442

April 6, 2015

VT Land Trust  
8 Bailey Avenue  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

ATTENTION: Britt Haselton

Dear Britt:

This letter is regarding the 121 acres of farmland on Route 100 and Tetreault Road that Marc and Tiffany Marquis want to conserve.

The selectboard in the Town of Newport supports this project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,

Steve Barrup  
Jerry Waterman  
Richard Gosselin  
Town of Newport Selectboard

