



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

November, 2024

Support of Working Lands *Investing In Our Farms*

The BWLT is committed to protecting both natural and working lands. Forty-eight percent of the land owned by the Bridgewater Land Trust is actively farmed.

This month we are undertaking a significant capital expenditure at our Town Line Farm Preserve which will impact the efficiency and sustainability of our farm lands. See article below. Next year, we plan to invest in the south end of the existing large barn at Town Line (see photo below). We will apply for a state grant to help with the upgrades which will include new siding, doors and windows. The inside will be repurposed to allow for more practical farm uses. The footprint and color of the barn will remain the same.

We are also promoting local farms and food. We created a new video which we will debut at our Annual Meeting. We have also been sharing through social media information about the remarkable farms we are fortunate to have in and around Bridgewater.



The south end (the side opposite the silos) will be upgraded in 2025.

BWLT Invests In Hay Storage

New Structure at Town Line Farm Preserve

The BWLT has invested in a new storage building which will be located behind the main barns at the Town Line Farm Preserve in Roxbury. The canopy structure will be a green color to blend with the surroundings and will be used exclusively for hay storage. The work will be completed in 2024 and put to use for the next hay season. The BWLT Board of Directors learned that one of the challenges for modern farmers is livestock hay storage. These structures provide a clean, dry environment, natural light and the ability to withstand high winds and extreme weather. Without a sheltered structure, hay can easily become compromised, losing nutritional value, as well as increasing the occurrence of the breakdown of physical components, making it much more difficult to transport and last.

Year-round storage and protection can make a big difference in the usable amount and quality of the hay. In addition, the white wrapping on round hay bales used to protect hay from the elements, is expensive and non-recyclable. Indoor storage also frees up space in farm fields for livestock grazing and hay production. The barns at Town Line Farm were originally built to house a dairy operation with much different storage needs. In keeping with our mission to support local farming, this building will be incredibly helpful for the farmers there now and for those who farm there in the future.



The existing "bunker" where the new hay storage building will be installed.

FIELD NOTES

Burnham School 5th Grade Hike

Fun At Tappen Book Trails

A perfect fall day for our annual hike with the 5th grade class from Burnham School.



The Mad Hatters Of Hat Shop Hill

Bridgewater's Trunk Or Treat!

A spooktacular evening on the Peck House porch! The BWLT partnered with the Bridgewater Historical Society to participate in this traditional community event. Many thanks to the Bridgewater Congregational Church for organizing an amazing night for our youngest residents.



Pictured: Christian Feuer, Cynthia Feuer, Mae Orkisz, Laura Shail, Lisa Antel, Louise Marble, Marla Blumenstock, Lill Murphy, Bridget McCarthy and Julie Stuart

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting & Celebration *Local Farms & Food*

The BWLT will hold its annual meeting and celebration on Wednesday evening, November 13th at the Hilltop Center. The Bridgewater Bistro will cater a farm-to-table meal with locally sourced food from area farms including Maple Bank Farm, Riverbank Farm, Arethusa, Maywood, Stuart Family Farm and Nature View Farm. Our program this year will feature local farms and food and will include a newly created film featuring our local farmers. We anticipate a sell out. RSVP's are required.



Please Join Us

Annual Meeting and Celebration of
Local Farms & Food



Wednesday,
November 13th
5:30 PM
Hilltop Center
132 Hut Hill Road
Bridgewater

Featuring
Farm-To-Table
Food Stations
catered by
**The Bridgewater
Bistro**

Tickets: \$50
Includes program
and dinner
Seats are limited

RSVP - Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

2025 Local Calendar For Sale

Barns In & Around Bridgewater

With the holidays near and the year coming to a close, the BWLT has created a 2025 wall calendar. Bridgewater resident and photographers Joe Dolen and Julie Stuart have teamed up to offer seasonal photos of local barns and farms. If anyone is interested in reserving a

calendar (\$20 each), please contact Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Support Us

The Bridgewater Land Trust is a federally recognized 501(c) (3) charitable organization, and all your contributions are tax deductible.

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P.O Box 8
Bridgewater, CT 06752
Phone: (860) 355-8233

E-Mail: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org
www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Bridgewater Land Trust | PO Box 8 | Bridgewater, CT 06752 US

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