



TOWN OF WESTFORD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
TOWN HALL  
55 Main Street  
Westford, Massachusetts 01886

**Addenda Number 1**

**Hill Orchard Request for Proposals to manage and operate the Hill Orchard and Hill Orchard Farm Stand and Pick Your Own apples facility**

The following questions were received by Noon on March 5, 2015. This document provides the Town's written responses. **Offerors must acknowledge receipt of Addenda Number 1 on Form B (Price Proposal).**

1. Beyond what is within the bounds of Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act, are there any additional setbacks for the spraying of legal pesticides from either the property boundaries or from neighboring residences?

*Answer: No additional requirements from the Town. Past practice has been to email neighbors ahead of spraying and spraying on weekday evenings when the wind is down.*

2. The RFP mentions 1500 trees consisting of apple, peach, plum, nectarines and apricots. Do you have a breakdown of how many of each of these varieties the orchard consists of? Or of those 1500 how many are apples and how many are the other (stone fruits)?

*Answer: Here is the approximate breakdown of trees: 875 apple trees, 550 peach trees, 80 pear trees, 20 plum trees, and 15 apricot trees.*

3. The RFP mentions that the management of the farm stand should include being open for business a minimum of 5 days per week August through Thanksgiving. This is approximately a total of 85 days. Could the farm stand be opened before August 1? Could the farm stand be open less than 5 days per week in November, especially if it were open more than 85 days per year?

*Answer: The Agreement included with the RFP is a SAMPLE based on the prior management contract and this item is negotiable. A proposal to use the farm stand earlier in the year and close it before the end of November is acceptable. Proposers should submit details in their management proposal for such changes and to provide a brief explanation of why certain terms would work better.*

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4. Knowing that PYO apples is most popular on fall weekends, and knowing that the RFP mentions 8 parking places in front of the buildings, where would PYO customers park their cars? There could easily be more than 30 cars at one time that need to be parked on peak Sept and Oct weekends.

*Answer: In addition to the 8 spaces in front of the retail building/tractor shed, prior manager directed PYO customers to park in an empty spot in the orchard (generally illustrated on the attached photograph). Manager used a simple system of signs and yellow tape to direct customers to the driveway and temporary parking areas in the orchard.*

5. May PYO customers park in front of the buildings and walk down the street to the non-adjointing orchard?

*Answer: Yes.*

6. Are there any town restrictions to customers parking on the sides of Hunt and Chamberlain Roads?

*Answer: Parking is **not allowed** on Chamberlain or Hunt Roads.*

7. Knowing that newly planted fruit trees take about three or more years of growth before bearing fruit, and knowing that there is a lot of care involved in those prebearing years, and knowing that the length of the contract will be only three years, will the town consider part of the management cost to be a per new tree management cost to encourage the planting of new trees in the orchard? The number of new trees would need to be agreed to. Or does the town need to know the fixed management cost?

*Answer: The town needs to know a specific annual management cost for the agreement. However, the town understands the issue being raised in this question. As stated in the RFP, the **town will pay for new orchard replacement trees**, but the manager is responsible to plant and maintain the new trees. Proposers should include costs to plant and care for young, non-productive trees into the cost of the annual management fee.*

8. On driving past the orchard I notice the trees have not been pruned, some for two years. Who is responsible for pruning these trees?

*Answer: The town is contracting with an outside vendor to prune the apple and pear trees starting the week of March 15, 2015. Depending on weather / timing of tree budding, pruning of the stone fruit trees in spring of 2015 may be done by this same vendor and paid by the town or by the successful orchard manager. As specified in the RFP, the orchard manager is responsible for pruning (with the exception of spring 2015 pruning as detailed above).*

9. Does Westford allow burning of the prunings on the site?

*Answer: Yes, burning is allowed if the orchard manager obtains a burn permit and complies with the Westford Fire Department rules and regulations.*

Hill Orchard RFP Addendum #1 EXHIBIT X Farm Stand



The data shown on this site are provided for informational and planning purposes only. The Town and its consultants are not responsible for the misuse or misrepresentation of the data.

- Points Of Interest
- Precils for Identify
- Westford
- AdelphiFields
- Sugar Freeman Rail Trail
- Ponds
- Road Outlines
- Slidges
- Driveways
- Parking Lots
- Road Surface
  - Dirt Road
  - Paved Road
- Railroad
- Abutting Town Names
  - MA Highways
  - Interstate
  - US Highway
  - State Highway
  - Town Boundary
  - Streams
  - MA Abutting Towns
  - NH Abutting Towns

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