

TOWN OF  
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT  
SELECTBOARD

Amy Willis (2017 – 2020)  
Gene Troia (2018 – 2020)

Kim Swasey (2019 – 2021)  
Carl Etnier (2019 – 2022)

Chair, Seth Gardner (2018 – 2021)

August 19, 2019

Britt Hazelton, Farm Project Director  
Vermont Land Trust  
8 Bailey Avenue  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Re: Letter of Support for Fairmont Dairy/VT Land Trust/Cross VT Trail Conservation Project

Dear Mr. Hazelton:

The East Montpelier Selectboard has considered the proposed development rights purchase of the former Lylehaven Farm main parcel and determined that the project is a positive one for the community. This is a long serving, high value agricultural property that warrants permanent conservation. The inclusion of a significant trails easement to benefit the Cross Vermont Trail furthers the town's desire to see the trail achieve completion. We fully support both the permanent easements as proposed and encourage funding approval by the VT Housing and Conservation Board. As previously discussed, the question regarding use of the East Montpelier Conservation Fund for the trails easement portion of this project will be handled under the established protocol and the board withholds judgment on that issue at this time.

We appreciate you offering the town the opportunity to weigh in on this conservation project prior to the review by the VT Housing and Conservation Board. Although we feel this project is worthy of support, we remain concerned that the continual expansion in the amount of land permanently conserved in East Montpelier, now over 20% of the town's area, could hamper the flexibility required to meet the needs of future generations.

Sincerely,



Seth Gardner  
Chair, East Montpelier Selectboard