



OWEN'S POULTRY FARM INC.  
ESTABLISHED 1935

585 CENTRAL AVENUE  
NEEDHAM, MA 02194

617 444 1861

October 28, 2015

Dear Town Meeting Member,

In the late 1800's, my great grandfather, Charles Owen, settled in Needham and worked as a farmer. In 1935, his son, Walter, and wife Betty (my grandparents), purchased the land at 585 Central Avenue and opened Owen's Poultry Farm. My father, Raymond, worked at the farm as a young boy and in 1956 graduated Needham High School, married his high school sweetheart Barbara (my mother) and began working full time at the farm. In 1956, the hen house was built to raise chickens and to produce eggs.

The business prospered as the Town of Needham grew through the post-war years of the 1950's-1970's. Growing up, I worked in the family business. I graduated from Needham High School in 1977 and took over the Owen's Farm operation in 1985. I purchased adjacent properties over the past 30 years as a way of providing future flexibility for the farm operation.

In May, I made the decision, in consultation with my family, to close the business and sell the property. This was not an easy decision. The history and legacy of this property and our family is steeped in the traditions of Needham, of which we have been an integral part, for well over 100 years. I was aware of the challenges the Town was facing in rebuilding the Hillside Elementary School and reached out to the Town in late May to make them aware of my intentions. In doing my due diligence, I received proposals to purchase the property that exceeded the amount that would be paid by the Town.

I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Needhamite and felt what better legacy that my family can leave, than for the property to go to the Town for the rebuilding of the Hillside Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Douglas Owen  
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Needham, MA 02494  
781-444-1861