

## **Easement Conservation Easement Stewardship Policy**

It is the mission of the Watershed Agricultural Council to conserve agricultural land and support the economic viability of agriculture and forestry through the protection of water quality and the promotion of land conservation in the New York City Watershed region. It is the purpose of the Deed of Conservation Easement to protect the water quality of the New York City watersheds, and to protect agricultural and forestry lands by limiting the form, location, and density of development, and to promote good stewardship by the implementation of Whole Farm Plans. Therefore, it is the policy of WAC to ensure that the stewardship of conservation easements is conducted in a manner that is consistent with the mission of WAC, the conservation purposes of the easement, and other clauses of the conservation easement related to stewardship.

### **Council Guidelines**

- The Easement Committee shall develop guidelines for the stewardship of easements which shall include: easement monitoring, the activation of reserved rights (those activities that require written approval from the grantee), amendments, violations, notifications, and Forest Management Plans.
- Conservation Easements held by WAC shall reflect the terms of stewardship defined in the Contract and Scope of Work between WAC and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.
- WAC stewardship activities shall be conducted in a manner that complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws
- WAC stewardship of Conservation Easements shall not be done in a manner which would jeopardize WAC's standing as a Not For Profit organization and shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to charitable organizations.