



## NORFOLK HUNT FOUNDATION

*Supporting the tradition of riding to hounds*

December 5, 2025

RE: Supporting "riding to hounds"

Season's Greetings, to our supporters of the Norfolk Hunt Foundation and all things equestrian.

This past Thanksgiving weekend I have been thinking a lot about how the Norfolk Hunt Foundation has grown in importance since it was founded in the late fall 2021. The last four years have seen the Foundation make a serious contribution to keeping the Charles River Valley towns of Dover, Medfield, Sherborn, and Millis open to equestrian sport. Our efforts have focused on keeping public and private land accessible to equestrians, promoting the sport of riding to hounds to youth and young adults, and supporting the welfare of the hounds that participate in the annual Amelia Peabody Memorial Hunt, a re-enactment of traditional British fox hunting held annually as a public event at The Trustees Powisset Farm in Dover MA. Amelia Peabody donated the Noanet Woodlands (then known as Mill Farm) and Powisset Farm to The Trustees in 1984. Ms. Peabody had been an active member of the Norfolk Hunt for many decades and rode side-saddle with Norfolk over its hunt country of southeast Massachusetts.

The Norfolk Hunt Foundation continues its support of the local chapter of Pony Clubs of America which introduces youth to the joys of horsemanship. All youth and young adults 30 and under can "ride to hounds" free of capping fees with the Norfolk Hunt, with the financial support of the Foundation. Several Norfolk hunts this past year have seen 15-20% of the riders be youth and young adults. (Remember- Norfolk is a drag hunt, with a scent line put down for hounds to follow, no live animals being chased). The Foundation has supported trail construction and bridge building on lands open to the public. This past summer the Foundation was involved in repair work to existing jumps on lands open to the public in our hunt country. Some jumps date back to the early 1900's. In spring 2024 the Norfolk Hunt Foundation supported the purchase of Millborn Farm in Sherborn/ Millis by The Trustees. This 200-acre property, abutting the Charles River, will be open to the public, including equestrians, in the summer of 2026.

The Norfolk Hunt kennels are the oldest, continuously run kennels in North America under the umbrella of the MFHA (Masters of Foxhounds Association) The Foundation was quite involved with the renovation of hound lodge #1 at the Norfolk Hunt kennels in late 2023 and early 2024. At the kennel open house last spring, visitors viewed the improvements. Hound lodge #1 was rebuilt including a new energy efficient hound bed, featuring radiant heat from below. Half of the roof of the kennels was replaced with funding from the Norfolk Hunt Foundation. Fundraising has been ongoing during 2025 to fund additional work to the kennels, planned for the winter/spring 2026 to include renovation of hound lodges #2 and #3 and update to electrical wiring. This work will include rebuilding the hound bed in lodge #2 and #3 with radiant heat, replacement of lodge interior walls

and doors. As funds is available, similar work will continue in hound lodge #4 along with repairs to exterior walls.

If riding to hounds has been part of your life as a landowner, involved equestrian, or one appreciating the traditions of the Charles River Valley equestrian community over the past 130 years, your support is most welcome. The Foundation endeavors, looking forward to year 5 and beyond, to provide continued programming, funded by \$100,000 in annual support. With this support, the Norfolk Hunt Foundation can provide riding opportunities for the next generation of young riders, keep land and trails open for equestrian sport, and support the welfare of hounds involved in riding to hounds.

Carolyn and I have supported the Foundation with a gift of \$5,000 to be used in 2026 and encourage you to consider matching our gift or making a gift that feels right for you. By creating the Norfolk Hunt Foundation as a charitable entity (501c3 organization), gifts from donor advised funds, family foundations or personal tax-deductible gifts support the efforts of the Foundation to further the traditions of our community. If we can raise funds to meet our targeted giving this year, our goals outlined above can be met. Our programming is local, and 100% of your gift goes for our stated purposes.

For more information about the Norfolk Hunt Foundation, please visit our website at [www.norfolkhuntfoundation.org](http://www.norfolkhuntfoundation.org). There is a “donate” button there, or gifts can be mailed to:

The Norfolk Hunt Foundation  
16 Nason Hill Lane  
Sherborn Ma 01770

The Norfolk Hunt Foundation is also a registered recipient of charitable giving of Fidelity Charitable and the Boston Foundation.

Family legacy gifts are received with much gratitude as well. It is the giving of the original Norfolk Hunt families from the early 1900s that has provided the equestrian community in the Charles River Valley with the opportunity to enjoy the sport of riding to hounds over the lands of the Wardner Farm Trust, which include the racecourse on North St. in Medfield. For this we are most fortunate.

Please consider a gift to the Norfolk Hunt Foundation as we support the next 100 years of riding to hounds in the Charles River Valley. I encourage you to reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



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