

Supporting the tradition of riding to hounds

December 2, 2023 RE: Supporting "riding to hounds"

Dear Friends of the Norfolk Hunt Foundation,

Season greetings to the friends of the Norfolk Hunt Foundation. We are now finishing up the end of our 3rd fiscal year. In the late fall 2021, the IRS approved the application of the Norfolk Foundation, aka Norfolk Hunt Foundation, to support the riding to hounds as a non-profit 501c3 organization. Initial focus is preserving the traditions of riding to hounds (drag fox hunting-no live prey involved) as has been practiced in the Charles River Valley towns of Dover, Medfield, Sherborn, and Millis over the past 125 years.

The charter of the Foundation is aligned with keeping land open for equestrian sport, underwriting of youth involvement in fox hunting, and the welfare of hounds involved in this activity. Projects since inception have included financial support of the local chapter of Pony Clubs of America, underwriting subscriptions (cost of riding to hounds) for youth and young adults at the Norfolk Hunt, construction of bridges connecting the racecourse to the new Medfield rail trail, and repair of trails (including the one at the top of Snows Hill last fall) used by equestrians and others in lands open to the public. The Foundation has funded veterinary care for hounds of the Norfolk Hunt Club. Foundation programming also supports the efforts of the local equestrian community in maintenance of the new rail trail in Medfield, to assure horses are welcome using this community asset. We are delighted that the number of youth and young adults riding with Norfolk has increased dramatically.

The Foundation is planning to expand its programming over the next year or two to include the above as well as repair and replacement of jumps in Norfolk Hunt country that are accessible to the public. In addition, phase one repairs to the 100-year-old Norfolk Hunt kennels have begun with support from the Norfolk Hunt Foundation. Hound lodge #1 is being rebuilt including a new energy efficient hound bed, heated from below. With funds permitting, additional work to the kennels is planned for later in 2024.

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 125 years, your support is most welcome. The Foundation endeavors, looking forward to year 4 and beyond, to provide programming funded by \$100,000 in annual support. With this support, the Norfolk Hunt Foundation can provide riding opportunities to 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 2024 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 to our stated purposes.

For more information about the Norfolk Hunt Foundation, please visit our website at 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 Trust. For this we are truly grateful.

With much appreciation, 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,

Norfolk Hunt Foundation Dana G. Pope, President

Dana M. Pope

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