

CITY OF FITCHBURG

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

0 Sheldon Road Land Conservation Project

The Agricultural Commission is not currently engaged in activities related to the conservation of 0 Sheldon Rd. However, the Commission may be involved in the conservation of this land in the future. The conservation of farmland is a long-term effort, which often requires multiple grant applications over several years. During this time, it is essential to maintain the landowner's privacy and trust, to enable the Commission to work toward conservation of the farmland, in the face of development pressures and competing purchase offers. Because of the time required for farmland conservation, the Commission may work on more than one property at the same time.

Multiple grant awards may be required to conserve farmland, and these grants can be sufficient, without additional municipal funding. Farmland can also be conserved by donation.

The Commission can conserve farmland in one of two ways: by acquisition of the farmland, or; by holding a conservation restriction on the farmland, which remains in private ownership.

The farmland on Sheldon Road is threatened by development pressures. In the past four years, 21 houses were built on the 96-acres former Daigle Farm, shown below. To prevent the loss of Fitchburg's farmland by development, the Agricultural Commission works to permanently conserve it as working farmland.

