February 4, 2015

Camel’s Hump Skiers,

Mark and Marijke Smith, my neighbors, friends, and collaborators of 35 years in the creation of the CHNSA ski trail network, have asked me to share with you a little bit about the future of their homestead at Windekind Farm, which is at the core of this trail network that we have nurtured together over so many years.

Mark and Marijke (M & M), now in their seventies, are at a critical transition in their lives. Their life work has been, in large measure, the creation of Windekind Farm, a landscape whose human presence they have crafted with loving care since the mid-1960’s. They have built a profitable business hosting guests in three artfully crafted cottages in an environment that features extensive gardens, an impressive railroad layout, stonework, multiple ponds, meadows and forestland, all with stunning, long views of a dramatic landscape. Now they are exploring how to transition this place to another generation of thoughtful stewards who will continue their role as caretakers, with the same love and respect for the land that they have long modeled for this little piece of heaven.

M & M have created a comprehensive document - “The Common at Windekind Farm” – detailing their vision for this transition at Windekind Farm, one that would encourage concepts of continuity, community, and sustainability. Among their goals **of particular interest to CHNSA skiers is the protection and preservation of the trail network that now physically and socially ties together various rural “neighborhoods” here in Huntington.** They hope to attract to this project people of a similar mind, interested in celebrating and sustaining the environment, the trail network, and community recreation.

Toward that end, M & M are **proposing to create three or four small building lots on their land within a small, “residential village” area, along with “commons” ownership of about 75 acres,** comprised of the 16 acre Windekind Meadow and the surrounding woodlands that abut Camel’s Hump State Park.

If this is something that might interest you, I would urge you to refer to their website at [www.windekindfarms.com](http://www.windekindfarms.com). You can contact M & M at mark@windekindfarms.com or at their home phone (802-434-4455) for further details regarding their document, “The Common at Windekind Farm”. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Dave Brautigam, President

CHNSA