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Press Release

January 14, 2004

Historic Farmland Protected in Charlton

The Morack Family of West Charlton has donated a conservation easement to Saratoga P.L.A.N. to permanently preserve the farmland, forests, and riverbanks surrounding the family's 1810 homestead. The 23-acre easement includes areas of prime agricultural soils currently used by a neighboring dairy farm for corn and hay. Once the site of an eighteenth century mill, the Morack land abuts the Alplaus Creek and includes forested buffers to the meandering stream.

"When the time came to sell the house, my sister, brother and I could not bear the thought of the land our parents cherished being developed. We donated the easement to Saratoga P.L.A.N. to honor our parents, keep the land in productive use for farming, and help this beautiful area retain its rural character", said Mimi Sauer, one of the easement donors.

Fred Acunto, Supervisor of the Town of Charlton, stated: "I am thrilled that Marvin and Dorothy Morack's family recognized their deep commitment to the land by protecting the open space through Saratoga P.L.A.N.. Marvin was an integral member of the early Planning Board in the Town. I know that he and his wife would be pleased."

Saratoga P.L.A.N. was eager to work with the Morack family to permanently preserve their land. "This property has so many unique features that deserve protection", according to Dan Wojcik, a professional planner and board member of Saratoga P.L.A.N. "Our land protection program is driven by criteria including the preservation of prime farmland and the protection of stream corridors. This land is in the midst of a vibrant farm community and we hope this project will be a catalyst for the Town and other landowners to take steps to preserve the remarkable landscape heritage of Charlton."

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Saratoga P.L.A.N. is a not-for-profit organization working to preserve open spaces and special places for present and future generations in the Saratoga Region. The group currently protects over 2,500 acres of land around the county. The Morack conservation easement is Saratoga P.L.A.N.'s first land protection project in the Town of Charlton. For more information about Saratoga P.L.A.N. please call 587-5554.