

# TOWN OF AMHERST 2022 CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM



A combine tractor harvests crop at Spoth Farms

## Landowner Security-Community Benefits

The recently completed Amherst Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan recommended the Town create a new Conservation Easement Program to secure remaining farmland and natural resources within the Agricultural District in Town. The Program would enable landowners to permanently conserve their land for farming uses or open space in perpetuity. The Town of Amherst's previous conservation easement program secured approximately 750 acres of land as permanent conservation lands.

The purchase of development rights as a means to secure conservation land is a collaborative effort. A partnership between the landowner, the local Land Trust and the municipality is required to successfully fund and complete a conservation easement transaction. The community benefits from the addition of more protected farmland, open space and preservation of natural resources.

## Benefits to the landowner are significant



The land will be dedicated to farm operations or open space in the future and will not be converted into suburban forms of development.



Protect the land as a farm for future generations, and to allow flexibility to diversify and change the farming practices as needed.



Keeps agricultural land affordable for farmers. Payment to the landowner for the purchase of development rights is competitive with development offers. This compensation can be used for potential reinvestment into the farm.

**Interested? Questions?  
We are here to help!**



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