

## Lavender Waves Farm Background and Objectives

An old sign still resides in the barn that reads “Gatewood Farm - Bacon and Sausage”. Based upon local knowledge of the farm from neighbors and locals, the farm used to raise cows and pigs and people could directly purchase culinary products from a retail store on the property. The old slaughter room can still be seen in the barn and the overgrown “cow pond” where the cattle were taken to water is still a feature on the farm.

The property changed hands a few times since then including ownership by the Carpenter family of Carpenter Farm. The farm was most recently used for the production of hay where the previous owner had the barn in disrepair and used it solely for storage.

After the current owner purchased the farm late in 2016, the process of restoration and improvement of the barn began with the installation of electricity and repairing existing water system. Improvements included the installation of three stables and Dutch doors throughout the barn as well as created a poultry area attached to the rear of the barn. The farm restoration included pastures for livestock (sheep, llama, alpaca and donkey).

During the summer of 2017, the Carpenters planted corn on the farm in preparation for a master plan for a lavender field. The following summer of 2018, a center gazebo was installed and the field designs for the rows of lavender were laid out. To house the growing equipment and materials for the farm a garage was built with a small living area above. The inner circle of the lavender field was planted in 2018. In 2019 the outer circle of the lavender field was planted to the completion of 4,000 lavender plants from 10 varieties.

In 2020, the farm quickly gained traction and a large following grew around the lavender field and its unique beauty. Popularity of this private farm has grown immensely. As a private farm, the property is not open to the general public. It was decided to sell the first year’s lavender via tightly regulated lavender cuttings on five (5) Saturdays during peak bloom season in the summer. In addition to paid staff to manage the property and cuttings, the farm employs individuals to assemble cuttings and products from the lavender for sale. Volunteers from the Kingston Hill Garden Club of South Kingstown also assist the farm cuttings.

During the cuttings days, the farm uses security personnel to direct the flow of cars to park in signed and designated areas on the property. Farm guidelines for the public follow state COVID19 guidelines and care is taken to provide a sanctuary for guests to enjoy the serenity of

the farm. The unique design of the farm was done so as to create a special place of beauty, peace and luxury for the visitors. In the short time that the farm has been open, it has been written about by newspapers, magazines and other social media sources.

Plans are being considered on how best to offer the space as an event venue that is not only truly unique for the area, but even quite distinctive among lavender farms throughout the country. In keeping with the current guidelines and process to limit impacts to the on and off-site resources, these limited proposed events will occur in the same fashion with security personnel to make sure that all rules and expectations are carried out properly. The event times and number of people will be limited. The farm will continue to contract with TMW Productions to manage and control all of these limited events. TMW's main job is to organize everything and be sure that all guests are in compliance with the property rules and guidelines.

This farm is fulfilling the owner's dream of growing this amazing herb and sharing it with the community. By being able to sell the lavender as well as offer the opportunity for a limited number of guests to visit the farm they will experience a working farm and have the ability for the community to have a place of gathering amongst the rolling waves of lavender.