

Greetings Select Board,

I am excited to submit my application to join the Great Barrington Agricultural Commission for the term ending June 30, 2024. I have lived in Great Barrington at 39 South Street for the last 7 years and feel inspired to join the Ag Commission to serve my community's health and farming landscapes.

I have been working in the farm industry for almost a decade now at a number of different local farms in the area, as well as farms abroad and in the United States. My farming interests and knowledge include market vegetable farms, small scale homestead animal and vegetable subsistence operations, abroad as well as locally. My most recent venture was planting 100 Chestnut trees in partnership with Berkshire Ag Ventures and North Plain Farm to create food abundance in our area, as well as, create a model of silvopasture on local farms.

I have a Permaculture Certification focused on land design and integrating food systems into towns and cities from Sowing Solutions based out of Shelburne Falls, MA.

The last 6 years I have been solely responsible for the urban fruit and vegetable garden at Railroad Street Youth Project.

As I continue my journey of land caretaking and food on the landscape, I have found my interests and passions shift toward integrating native plants into landscape design and returning native species to the landscape as a priority. I am the Landcare Director at Flying Deer Nature Center and have been a part of their conservation and ecology oriented education for the last 5 years.

I look forward to applying my experiences and knowledge to the many projects and initiatives started by the current Ag Commission. I look forward to the continued education and shift towards native and pollinator plants/ landscapes on town properties.

I feel passionate about land design being an important component of the new high school design, if not essential to a land aware and conscious next generation.

I look forward to serving on the Agricultural Commission.

In growing community,
Christopher Wiltshire