



Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 • Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950  
[siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL  
INTERVENOR STATUS REQUEST FORM

RECEIVED  
JUL - 7 2009

Docket/Petition No. 379

Town/City: Bloomfield

Name: Elizabeth Schiro Auerbach

Address: Cider Hill Road Mailing address: 25 Brookside Boulevard  
West Hartford, CT 06107

City: Bloomfield

State: CT

Zip: 06002

Phone:

Fax:

E-Mail:

1. Manner in which petitioner claims to be substantially and specifically affected:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

2. Manner and extent to which petitioner proposes to participate:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

Copies of this request shall be mailed to all participants at least five (5) business days before the date of the hearing.

Signed Elizabeth A. Schiro

Date: 6/29/09

Elizabeth Auerbach Schiro  
Apple Orchard, LLC

Cider Hill Road  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Mailing address:  
25 Brookside Boulevard  
West Hartford, CT 06107

June 29, 2009

Mr. S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Intervenor Status Request – Docket No. 379

Dear Sir;

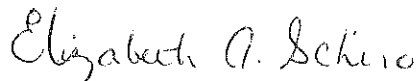
I am the owner of a large parcel of land on Cider Hill Road in Bloomfield, CT. You should also be aware that my family deeded a portion of our property to what is now known today as the 4-H Education Center at Auer Farm, 158 Auer Farm Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002. That property is listed on the "Certification Of Service To Abutting Property Owners" submitted by the applicant.

I have enclosed for your review the history and legacy that was developed by my family. I urge you to preview the web site [www.auerfarm.org](http://www.auerfarm.org) to fully understand the importance of this property to the community, the state and its visitors from all over the country. We believe the council will easily see the adverse affect that this development will have on the views, the historical value of the land itself and the overall disturbance that this tower will create.

We have no intention of allowing this legacy, our remaining property or its surroundings to be disturbed or adversely impacted by the development of a wireless communication site and will utilize all resources available in participating at all levels to ensure that this tower is not built on Maple Hill Farm. While we personally struggle with the importance of wireless communications we realize the need has grown substantially in our social environment. With that being said, we are sure that the Connecticut Siting Council will make every effort to investigate the viability of other locations that will serve the same users.

Therefore we respectfully request approval of our Intervenor Status Request on the above noted docket. Copies of this request shall be mailed to all participants at least five (5) business days before the date of the hearing.

Sincerely



Elizabeth Auerbach Schiro  
Apple Orchard, LLC

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- Home
- About Auer Farm
- Programs
- Event Programs
- Family Fun
- Registration
- Publications
- Service Learning
- Sponsorships

The 4-H Education Center at Auer Farm serves the needs of children with the assistance of . . .

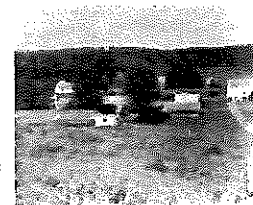


## ABOUT AUER FARM

### HISTORY OF AUER FARM

Today's 120-acre 4-H Education Center at Auer Farm, located in the northwest section of Bloomfield, Connecticut was deeded to the non-profit Connecticut 4-H Development Fund, Inc. in 1976. The farm, as the 4-H Education Center, is committed to growing its successful educational programs and community outreach efforts on this historic community resource.

The farm, founded in the early years of the 20th century, was honored as a model farm in 1950 and was the site for the annual Connecticut Farm Conference in the late 1940s and 1950s. The driving force for the long-term success of the farm was Beatrice Fox Auerbach. When her husband died in 1927, two years after buying the farm, she took control despite no knowledge of farming.



For 40 years she managed what became the 230-acre Auer Farm with three production divisions: a dairy with 60 purebred Guernsey cows, poultry with more than 20,000 chickens and apples on more than 300 trees. Both the dairy barns and poultry houses used the latest technology. Milk was processed on the farm.



Milk, eggs and other farm products were sold at the G. Fox Department Store. Nine homes on the property housed farm families and a dormitory housed seasonal employees.

Dignitaries from throughout the country, including Eleanor Roosevelt, visited the farm and were impressed by the quality of the crops and animal production. Farmers from abroad came to learn modern practices for use in their countries.

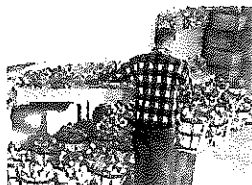
Besides running the farm, Mrs. Auerbach achieved national prominence in the 1930s as the first female president of a leading department store, G. Fox & Co. Her good business sense, humanitarian work practices and philanthropic ventures left a legacy from which people benefit today. Mrs. Auerbach also supported 4-H by sponsoring the statewide 4-H dress revue held at the department store.

#### Building on the Auerbach Legacy

Mrs. Auerbach's 40 years as head of Auer Farm is a story in itself. Details of many aspects of her legacy and of her daughters' decision to deed the property to the Connecticut 4-H Development Fund are covered in a publication of interesting short stories available by contacting the Center.

The Auerbach legacy is indeed compelling as history. It is equally compelling today as a unique guide for the expansion of what has been created over the past 30 years.

By the beginning of the 1970s, the Auer Farm Guernsey herd was donated to the dairy program of the University of Connecticut. All of the chickens went to market. The apple orchard was the only



remaining operation. At this point, the 4-H clubs of Hartford County had more than 1000 members. Creatively, an

#### Expanding Community Outreach

Since 1976, hundreds of thousands of young people and family members have enjoyed informal visits to the Center for "pick your own crops," to walk the farm roads, meet the farm animals, observe wildlife, paint and photograph the wondrous sites and make purchases in the Center's store.

Generations of family members have come to celebrate birthdays and other family gatherings. There have even been weddings.



Each year, thousands of people are attracted to the Fall Festival, a free community event for individuals to experience a wonderful family day. There are hayrides, pony rides, barn visits, and lessons on making apple cider and ice cream, farm animal and gardening talks. There are displays by 4-Hers, children's

orchard partnership was formed between the 4-H clubs and the Auerbach family. The 4-H clubs had full use of the orchard including the sales room as long as they maintained the orchard. Club members and their leaders worked throughout the year. They pruned, sprayed, mowed, harvested, graded and sold the apple crop.

The Auerbachs recognized the value of 4-H and the positive experience the farm provided to the children who were involved in the apple project. This led to their decision in 1976 to give the farm to 4-H with an agreement to **maintain the property as open space and provide a community resource where children and families learned about and enjoyed the ambiance of the farm.**

***Remaking Auer Farm in a New Role***

The immediate challenge in 1976 was to renovate and preserve deteriorating structures while creating a plan to achieve the mission given them for the long term. Not an easy task!

People throughout all levels of the extended community banded together to make things happen. 4-H leaders and members, Seabees, CETA employees, Eagle Scouts, small business men, UConn interns and high school students rolled up their sleeves to empty and clean buildings, remove invasive plants, raze buildings, repair the road and paint outside structures.

A standing committee of the Connecticut 4-H Development Fund, Inc. was established to develop a strategic plan and make decisions for day-to-day operations. Farm animals were purchased and a demonstration barn area was converted from a portion of the dairy barn. Raspberries, cornfields, hayfields Christmas trees, and a dwarf orchard were planted and the acres of pasture were fenced for farm animals.



The Learning Center, the first classroom, was created from a renovation of the creamery and a small barn.

It was dedicated on September 28, 1978 for the purpose of providing an agricultural-based education program for children. The 4-H Center also very actively invited the local community and general public to learn about farming and enjoy the farm.

games and an opportunity to walk the corn maze. Other scheduled events through the year include **Family Fun** programs every Wednesday and Friday and seasonal farm demonstrations for "Saturdays on the Farm."

Throughout the year programs are offered to schools classes, community groups and the public in the Center's animal barn, classrooms, gardens, farmland and orchards. The 4-H Center also has the only garden in Connecticut that grows food exclusively for FoodShare. Several tons of farm produce are harvested and brought to fresh food outlets. The Center provides coordination and technical assistance to grow crops for participants in the Immigrant Farmer Program.

A series of **Community Outreach** programs and **Master Gardener Trainings** have been well received. The challenge in 2008 and beyond, given real and growing needs, is to do more.

***Making Science Interesting***

The central mission set down by the Auerbach family in 1976, to create a real hands-on farm learning experience for students set down by the Auerbach family in 1976 was important, requires considerable time and effort, and not doable overnight.

By the mid 1990s, the program had significant momentum. In 2004, more than 17,000 students from the Greater Hartford area attended classes and workshops.

Through many varied education programs, students learn that the farmer is a scientist and that agriculture science affects everyday life. Lessons in biology, biotechnology, horticulture and math address content standards and expected performances in science. The lessons follow the Connecticut Department of Education "core science curriculum framework" for students pre-K through high school. Programs based on the inquiry learning method, encourage critical thinking and curiosity, while providing concrete hands-on discovery experiences essential to motivate and inspire scientific literacy. The lessons also can help prepare students for the Science Mastery Test which will be required for all 4th and 6th grade students in 2008.



This enormous effort from 1976 through today has been remarkably successful in meeting its goals despite the ever-present problem of funding. The 4-H Center has used the rich 40-year legacy of Beatrice Auerbach to create both a successful education program and an important community outreach effort.

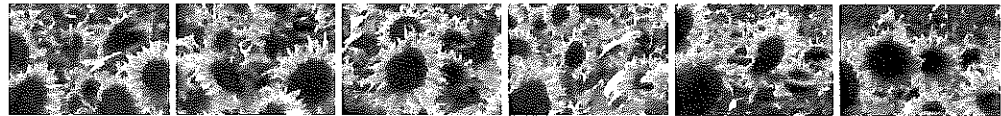
Today, the challenge is to expand on this success. More can and should be done.

What has been accomplished to date in building a science education program is very satisfying. However, the need to do more in 2008 and beyond is clear, as it is in the Education Center's broader community outreach programs. Results from 1976 to today in both areas certainly created a strong confidence in what the Center can do as it builds on what has been learned from past successes.

### ***2008 and Beyond***

As we look back, we are also looking ahead. Our plan is to expand the education services to local school districts, charter schools, teacher training, and to form partnerships with the soon to be opened Connecticut Science Center, the Connecticut Audubon Society and neighboring Bloomfield and CREC new preschool. To update our site and buildings and to support the increased activity, we must upgrade the road for all vehicles including cars and school buses. Additional improvements are needed for handicap accessibility and to the electrical systems. We also need to add additional classrooms and improve space for our animals.

We are proud of our history and excited about our plans to reach more children and their families. We hope you will visit the farm and continue to support our efforts. Come visit the farm, meet the animals, walk or hike through the 120 acres, pick raspberries and blueberries in season, **VOLUNTEER** to help, and support our work. **E-MAIL US** to receive our calendar of events at [4hcenter@comcast.net](mailto:4hcenter@comcast.net) and other notices or simply click on **CALENDAR** at the upper left corner of the screen.



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