

## **RYEGATE COMMONS MISSION AND GOALS**

Ryegate Commons, Ltd. aims to develop a new model for sustainable rural development that:

- Preserves working farms
- Serves an aging population and
- Creates adaptive strategies for climate change through local food and energy production and affordable, energy efficient housing design.

We will serve the public good through programs that educate and inform the local community and the general public about our activities, including assistance in applying this model in other communities.

### **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

Ryegate Commons, Ltd. is committed to the following principles and values:

- Rural community based
- Preserve farmland and land-based resources for future generations
- Sustainable food and energy production
- Housing that is energy efficient, appropriate to the site, and affordable
- Support for varying physical abilities, aging in place
- Community is inclusive, democratic, intergenerational
- Support and enhance the surrounding community through cultural, educational, and agricultural activities
- Encourage land-based enterprises that offer adaptive strategies for changing ecological and economic conditions
- Practice ethical relationships - Interact with each other and the public in a respectful and compassionate way.

## A HOLISTIC GOAL FOR RYEGATE COMMONS

AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN OUR PLANNING PROCESS, THIS IS WHAT WE LOOK TOWARDS – DO OUR DECISIONS TAKE US CLOSER TO THIS?

### Whole Under Management (Present-Near Future)

**Decision Makers:** RC Members, VHCB, Town zoning board, Investors (?), Lenders (?), CVCLT (?)

**Resource Base:** Land (both farms), timber, good soil, buildings

Community: mailing list, professional advisers, trades people, our social and professional networks, our skills and talents, medical and transport access, funders, the Vermont image

**Money:** Membership fees & assessments, grants, sale of easements, farm income

HOLISTIC GOAL

Quality of Life

Necessary Conditions

Future Resource Base

## Quality of Life

As members of Ryegate Commons we value:

- Preserving farms, farmers, farming
- Land and water conservation
- Financial security
- Sustainable food and energy...no nukes!
- Housing that is: Energy efficient, low embodied energy, beautiful, affordable, eco-friendly, appropriate scale, made with local materials
- Creativity, joy, humor
- Opportunities to age in place through universal design, assisted living and healthcare resources
- Decision making that is inclusive, democratic, transparent, ethical
- Communication that is non-violent, compassionate, respectful, mindful
- Intergenerational relationships
- Civic engagement with the surrounding community, sharing culture, education, food, and general neighborliness—not dogmatic or elitist
- Work life that includes land-based economic activity

## Necessary Conditions

In order to achieve our desired quality of life, we must create:

- Income from land-based enterprises, grants, investors – both individual and community
- Self-reliance for basic necessities of life, sense of interdependence
- Ecological design and land management methods
- Communication and decision making skills that support our principles and establish clear expectations
- Outreach to potential members and community, welcoming newcomers, and a critical mass of active members
- Opportunities for socializing, play, creative expression
- Opportunities for privacy, solitude, spiritual practice

## Future Resource Base

Far into the future we want to be known as:

- Kind, neighborly, generous, innovative, creative, exciting, funny
- A model for others
- Creating a solid community foundation with a vital center that nourishes and engages
- Committed, in it for the long haul
- Manifesting magic (ordinary and otherwise)

We want our farm, land and wider ecosystem to be:

- Thriving, bountiful, productive, owned by the community, self-sustaining
- Healthy, vibrant ecosystem processes (water and nutrient cycles, energy flows, biodiversity), woodlands, soil, plants and animals
- Home of our dreams and hearts