



City of Cambridge

65.

IN CITY COUNCIL
September 14, 1998

VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Penelope Turton on August 24, 1998 at the age of eighty-six; and
- WHEREAS: Penelope, an organic farmer, was the proprietor of the Stearns Farm in Framingham for forty years; and under her directions the farm was designated a Verified Organic Farm by the National Organic Farmers Association; and
- WHEREAS: Penelope was born in England, worked as a social worker for the British Red Cross in World War II and at the end of the war became a United States citizen; and
- WHEREAS: Penelope was a member of the Religious Society of Friends in Cambridge; and
- WHEREAS: Penelope and her companion Margaret Welch founded the Framingham Friends Meeting Society; and
- WHEREAS: Penelope will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy at this time of such personal loss of Penelope Turton; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Framingham Friends Meeting Society on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 14, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Obituaries

Penelope Turton, organic farmer who owned Stearns Farm; at 86

By Tom Long
GLOBE STAFF

Penelope Turton, an organic farmer who was proprietor of Stearns Farm in Framingham for 40 years, died Monday at her home in Framingham. She was 86.

Miss Turton operated Stearns Farm from 1954 until her retirement four years ago. She raised everything from herbs to peas. Under her stewardship it became one of the first 12 farms in Massachusetts designated a Verified Organic Farm by the Natural Organic Farmers Association.

She was born in Hatfield, Herts, England. As a social worker for the British Red Cross during World War II, she participated in the evacuation of the British forces at Dunkirk and worked in some of the more heavily bombed areas on the southern coast of England.

At war's end, Miss Turton visited the United States for what was to be a six-month sabbatical; she stayed and eventually became a citizen.

She and her lifelong friend and companion, Margaret Welch, became members of the Religious Soci-



PENELOPE TURTON

ety of Friends in Cambridge and were founders of the Framingham Friends Meeting.

Stearns Farm is located on the Welch Reservation, land bequeathed to Sudbury Valley Trustees in the 1970s by Margaret Welch.

Miss Turton began organic farming, she said, because "‘Silent Spring,’ Rachel Carson’s book warning of the dangers of pesticides, was just coming out," she said in a story published in the Globe on May 6, 1990.

She said organic gardening creates a "living soil" and vegetables that "taste like what they’re supposed to taste like."

"A great deal of supermarket produce does not taste like that," she said.

She operated a natural foods store in her home, where she ground whole wheat flour to order.

She leaves no immediate relatives.

A memorial service will be held Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. at the Framingham Friends Meeting.

Dee Maym Gallucci
all

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Forty years; and under her directions the farm was
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Farmers Association
; and

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For the British Red Cross in World War II and at the end of
the war became a United States citizen; and

WHEREAS: Penelope was a member of the Religious Society of Friends in Camb; and

WHEREAS: Penelope and her companion Margaret Welch founded the; and
Framingham Friends Meeting Society;

WHEREAS: passing will leave a void in the lives of all his/her surviving
family,

WHEREAS: Margaret will be sorely missed by all he she touched and loved; now
therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family
of at this time of such personal loss; and
be it further

(of
Penelope Turton

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitable engrossed
copy of this resolution to the Framingham family on behalf of the
entire City Council. Friends Meeting
Society



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Consent Order #65

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Vice Mayor Galluccio and entire membership re: Resolution on the death of Penelope Turton.

In City Council September 14, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED