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Ms. Christina E. Clayton  
25 Talcott Farms Road  
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Dear Ms. Clayton:

Thank you for your letter of August 11 in respect of the Haagenson property in East Haddam.

When Audubon acquired the property, the deed gave Mr. Haagenson the right to live in the existing house, with taxes and insurance to be paid by the Society. There was no other restriction in the deed. Mr. Haagenson gave the Society the right to sell two building lots in order to raise funds.

Subsequently, after Mr. Haagenson's death, the Society removed the house. The Society now proposes to sell one building lot (in contrast with the permitted three), with the great bulk of the acreage to be permanently dedicated to conservation purposes.

Although I was not present at the Board of Directors meeting at which the decision to sell the building lot from the Haagenson property was taken, I almost certainly would have supported the decision which, in my judgment, was well within the rights of the Board of Directors.

Perhaps you have been influenced by a misleading local campaign that suggests that the property will be sold to a developer or for development. As indicated above, such charges are baseless.

Despite the fact that Mr. Haagenson placed no restriction (other than his life use) in the deed, I am sure it was his hope that the property would be preserved for a sanctuary and that hope will be realized by the Society's action.

Very truly yours,



W. Bradley Morehouse

WBM/jb  
cc: Mr. Robert Martinez