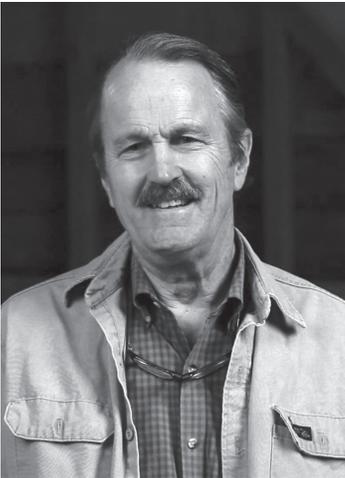




FREDERIC WINTHROP

— 2015 ESSEX HERITAGE HERO —



Frederic Winthrop of Ipswich is a national leader in the conservation of farmland and open space. He has been intimately involved with land throughout his life and has made it his purpose to keep land “the way it should be.” Fred was among the first Executive Directors of Essex County Greenbelt Association (1973 – 1975), served as Massachusetts Commissioner of Food and Agriculture (1975 – 1985), and is the former Executive Director of The Trustees of Reservations (1985 – 2000). In these positions, Fred was renowned as a leader whose goal was making everything better – for staff, the community, and the land owners – and has consistently demonstrated that one individual can make a big difference.

A descendent of both John Winthrop, Sr., the Massachusetts Bay Colony’s first governor, and John Winthrop, Jr., the founder of the town of Ipswich, Fred has left his own indelible mark at local, state, and national levels. Following his education at Harvard and service as a U.S. Marine Corps reservist, Fred Winthrop worked in Bangkok as a Project Development Officer before stepping into his pioneering role at Greenbelt.

While living on the family’s riverfront farm in the late 1960s, Fred recognized that the Ipswich River was an important regional resource and coordinated the first conservation restriction to protect both of its banks. Thanks to his work with nearby landowners and others, the Ipswich River is one of the most protected in the state.

As Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture in the 1970s, Fred created the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, a nationally adopted program offering compensation to farm owners in exchange for permanent deed restrictions limiting development.

In 1985, Fred took the helm of The Trustees of Reservations, the first privately funded land trust in the country, where he led a team of 100 full time professional resource managers overseeing 20,000 acres of land and 11 historic houses. His leadership at The Trustees, as elsewhere, was characterized by an emphasis on coalition building, developing state-of-the-art practices, and garnering cooperation from communities and conservation professionals.

When he isn’t tending to his farm or serving on a local board, Fred loves being outside and traveling with his wife Susan Shaw Winthrop and their extended family. In particular, they enjoy ski trips to the Rockies, family time in Maine, trails, and alpine skiing.