

Catherine  
Violet  
Hubbard  
ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Catherine Violet Hubbard  
Animal Sanctuary  
PO Box 3371  
Newtown, CT 06470

Testimony of  
Jennifer Hubbard  
Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation, Inc.

In SUPPORT

Section 6 of House Bill 5550  
An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land

Government Administration and Elections Committee  
March 17, 2014

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee to comment on Section 6 of House Bill 5550, An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land.

My name is Jenny Hubbard and I am here to testify in strong support of Section 6 of House Bill 5550. My husband Matt and I are the parents of Catherine Hubbard, one of the 20 young children along with 6 courageous educators who were killed on December 14, 2012 when Adam Lanza shot his way into Sandy Hook Elementary school. Section 6 of House Bill 5550 means more than the State just conveying a parcel of land. This is about creating a legacy for our daughter Catherine. In creating her legacy we are creating a place where a community can heal.

Catherine loved to help animals. She would find creatures in our yard and tell them to tell their friends she was kind. She did it in hopes that they would come back to her because they knew she could be trusted and they would be safe. She told us one day she would care for the animals, even making business cards for "Catherine's Animal Shelter." She, of course, was self-titled "Care Taker." It was easy to see her love for all animals: feather, furry, scaly and slimy; they were her passion.

It was butterflies, though, that mesmerized her most. If she were fortunate enough to catch one, we would see her whispering into its wings as she gently nudged it to fly away.

On December 14<sup>th</sup> Catherine's whisper was silenced. So much was lost that day. We lost our daughter, the animals lost a dedicated Care Taker and the world lost a piece of its innocence.

In the time since, we have found many things: love, support, hope, kindness and community. We have found a new purpose: to create the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary-- a safe haven for animals as well as a place where children and adults will feel love, compassion and respect—helping the community become a safer, kinder place.

Catherine can no longer spread her message of kindness but we can. We are her voice and her hopes and her dreams. We can create a place where kindness will be felt not only by all creatures, but also by every person and community it touches. This will be Catherine's legacy.

Section 6 of House Bill 5550 is about taking the first step in realizing her dream. Your yes vote will create a home for the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary, a center for compassion for both humans and animals.

Over the past fourteen months we have focused our energy on establishing an infrastructure that ensures the long-term sustainability of the sanctuary while staying true to the values that best define Catherine.

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary will enrich the lives of all living beings by promoting compassion, acceptance, and determination.

Programs will focus on:

- Cat and dog rescue and adoption
- Farm animal refuge
- Native wildlife rehabilitation
- Agricultural preserve
- Humane education and nature based workshops

All workshops and offerings at the sanctuary will promote acceptance and compassion. We will bring the community together in celebration of nature's graces. Offerings such as a community garden, plow to table instruction, Junior Master Gardening Workshops, and programming supported by Janie Goodall's "Roots and Shoots" will position the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary as a destination, drawing visitors from not only surrounding communities but surrounding states.

Since announcing our plans the outpouring of support has been astonishing. Children have manned lemonade stands or have asked friends to make donations to the sanctuary in lieu of birthday presents. Family foundations have committed to long-term giving plans while national and local organizations have made holiday donations on behalf of their members. In November, the ASPCA recognized our mission by awarding Catherine the "Tommy P. Monahan Kid of the Year Award®".

We are well aware of the financial obligation we assume in building the sanctuary

and are committed to covering all associated costs. We have established and vetted a five-year financial plan through both non-profit and corporate advisors. We have demonstrated our long-term sustainability and are prepared to tap all resources, from those who have committed their support and seeking funding from diverse sources. For example, FreeKibble has committed to feed our dogs in perpetuity and are waiting to make introductions to their corporate sponsors in hopes of soliciting additional support. PJH Architects, Tracy Locke, as well as local landscapers, contractors, and veterinarians have committed their services and supplies as long as they are needed. Upon securing an actual location, we are prepared to approach Connecticut based corporations with sponsorship opportunities.

Over the past year we have explored various sites for the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary. For the following reasons we have found the parcel identified in Section 6 of House Bill 5550 as being the most suitable location:

- 1) By using this site we create minimal disruption to the existing environment. Our plans work within the existing balance of meadows, treeline and forests. We will compliment existing landscape by introducing new gardens and reestablishing nature trails. Attached for your reference is our proposed site plan.
- 2) Nestled in the center of Newtown, this parcel is easily accessible to residents and surrounding communities.

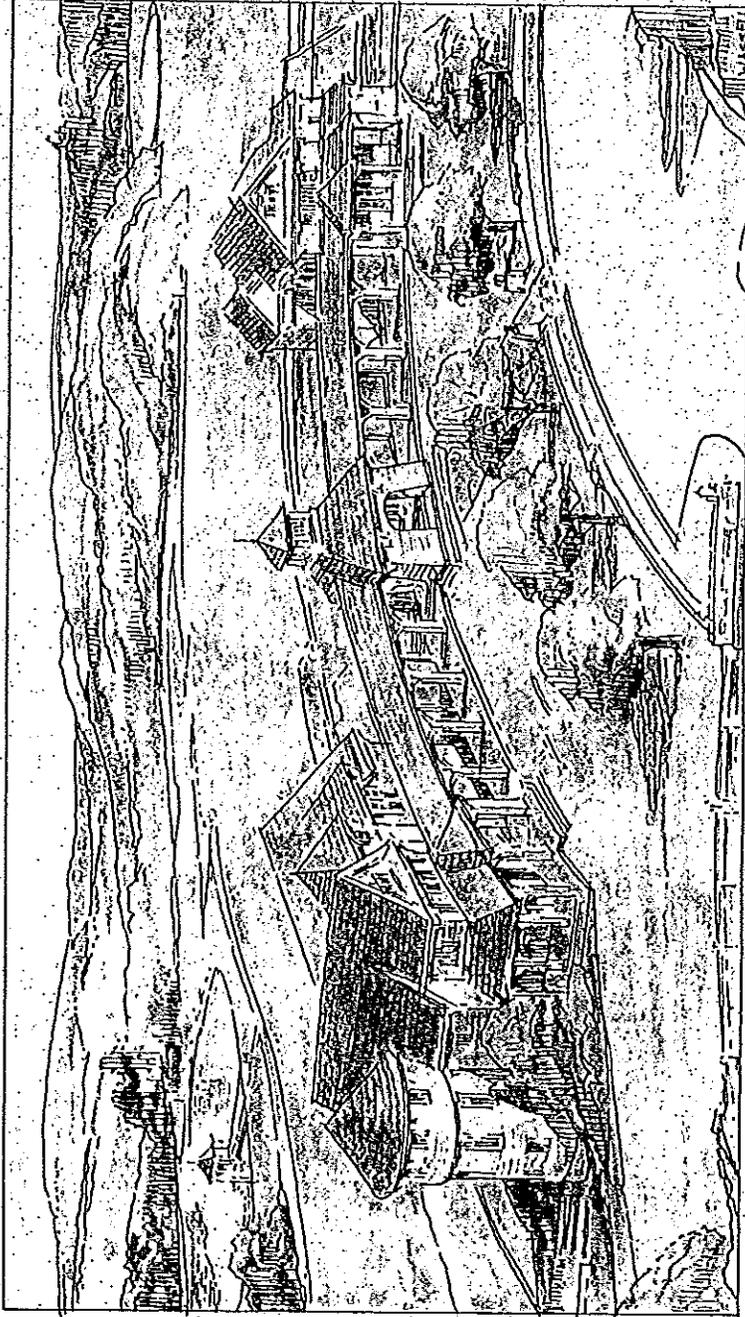
All visitors will be welcomed and encouraged to explore the natural beauty of this parcel. Our hope is the sanctuary will be a respite for both animals and the people who visit.

Building the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary is not only about honoring Catherine's life. It is about being our daughter's voice and fulfilling her hopes and dreams. In creating this center for compassion, we believe that children and adults alike, by interacting with animals, experiencing the tranquility of this setting and given the opportunity to learn about their environment, can work through the many complex issues that confront them. Maybe a resource like this can prevent the world from having to experience the tragedy of another Adam Lanza.

In closing, I respectfully urge the Committee to support Section 6 of House Bill 5550. On behalf of my family, especially Catherine, thank you for allowing me this opportunity. I appreciate your attention and would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.



Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary



Catherine  
Violet  
Hubbard

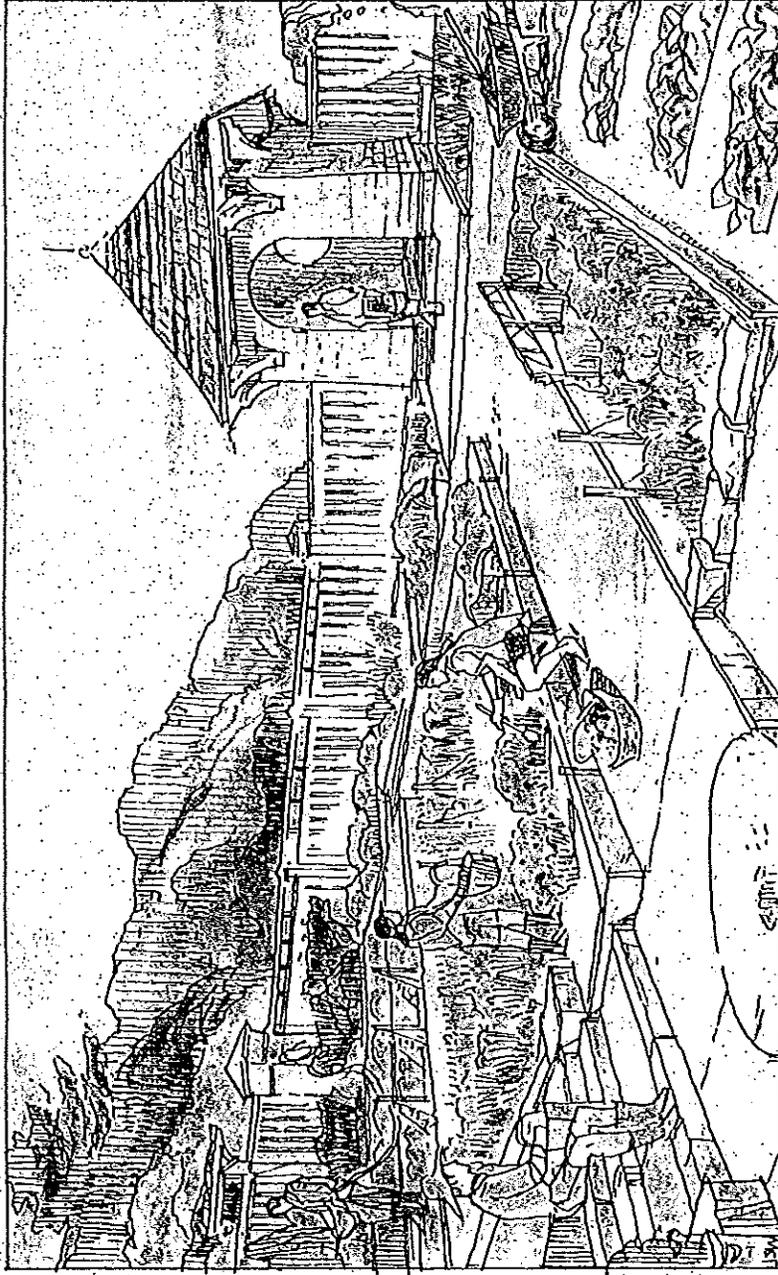
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Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary: Community Gardens



Catherine  
Violet  
Hubbard

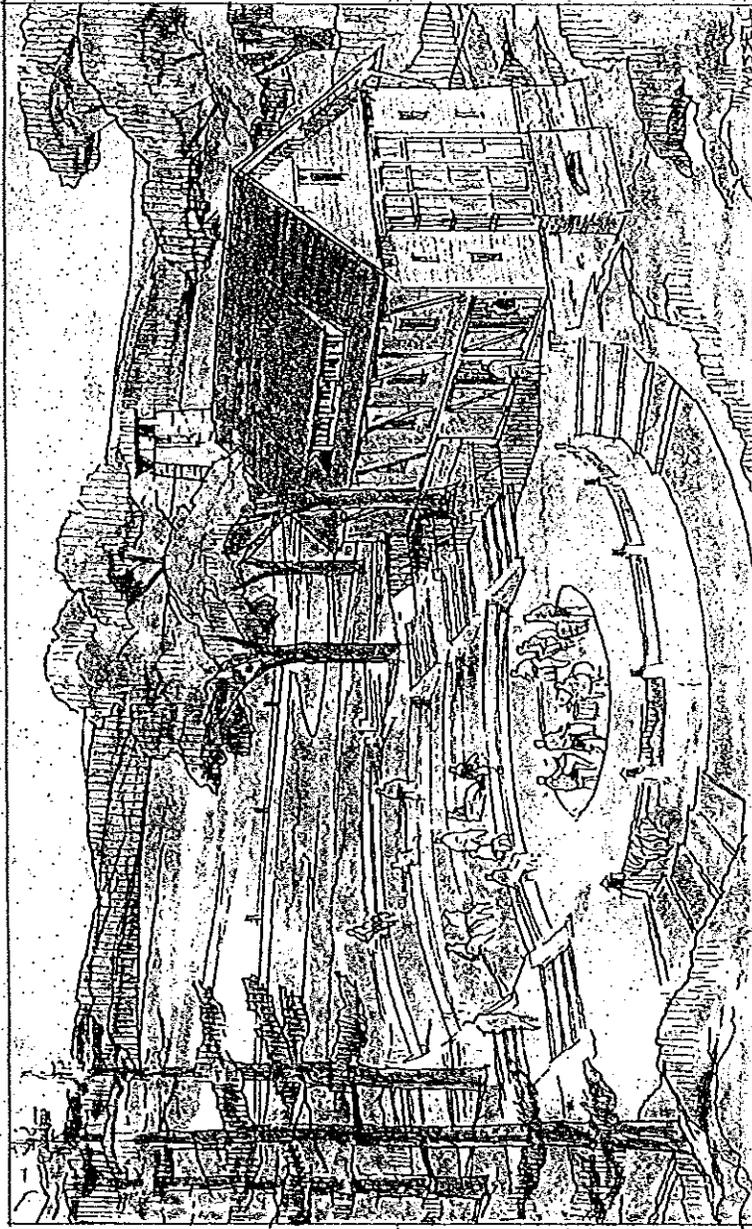
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Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary: Education Center



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