

## Historic Crebilly Farm Officially Preserved by Westtown Township

West Chester, PA – December 9, 2024 – [Westtown Township](#) and the law firm [Gawthrop Greenwood, PC](#) are pleased to announce the completed purchase of Chester County’s historic Crebilly Farm during a \$20 million closing held at the offices of Gawthrop Greenwood in West Chester on Monday.

Monday’s closing secures the largest portion of the approximately 308-acre farm. Westtown Township solicitor [Patrick M. McKenna](#), a partner at Gawthrop Greenwood, administered the closing with Westtown Township and the Robinson family, the owners and stewards of Crebilly Farm. The purchase ends a seven-year, public and private effort to secure the property from developers and preserve the site for a passive-use public park and walking trails.

Westtown Supervisor Tom Foster said, “The Westtown Board of Supervisors, our dedicated staff and scores of enthusiastic volunteers have worked tirelessly to fulfill the mandate to preserve Crebilly Farm as natural open space. We have proudly achieved this goal, but we have much more to do before residents of Westtown and surrounding townships can walk the grounds of Crebilly and fully take in its beauty and historical significance.”

Westtown Supervisor Richard Pomerantz said, “To best and more fully appreciate the significance of Monday’s official document signing is to recognize what the magnificence of Crebilly Farm as open space for the generations to come, would have eventuated instead: A massive housing development of 319 homes covering Crebilly’s bucolic acres. Had it not been for the years of persistent passionate commitment, focused efforts and the admirable, generous foresight of the widest range of public and private stakeholders, including especially Westtown’s residents who in a landslide winning referendum two years ago voted to Save Crebilly, Monday’s event would have remained nothing more than an unrequited pipe dream.”

Westtown Supervisor Edward Yost, Esq. said, “We are all very blessed to have been given the opportunity to preserve for generations to come the beautiful and historic treasure that is Crebilly Farm. I am humbled by and grateful for the passion, foresight and hard work of our Westtown residents and township staff, the Robinson family and our many trusted partners who made this extraordinary effort possible. This is a great day for Westtown.”

The \$20 million purchase closed on approximately 206 acres of Crebilly Farm, thanks to federal, state and county grants, an open space tax referendum approved by the residents of Westtown Township, and a local fundraising effort initiated by Natural Lands, as well as support through the Open Space Institute’s Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund which is made possible with a lead grant from the William Penn Foundation. in 2023.

Located in Westtown Township at the intersection of Routes 202 and 926, Crebilly Farm is one of the final remaining open spaces in the township. The Robinson family expressed their wish to preserve the farm after a proposed plan by Toll Brothers to develop the property ended in 2021, amidst community opposition.

“We are truly overwhelmed with gratitude by the response of so many who have given generously of their time, talent and resources. Thank you to the township, and Natural Lands’ inspiration and phenomenal fundraising effort. It is beyond our dream to know that the farm will be enjoyed by many for years to come,” said David Robinson. The Robinson family was represented by Michael Burg, partner at Saul Ewing LLP.

McKenna said, “The majority of my 20 years practicing land development and municipal law has been devoted to working with Westtown Township, and it has undoubtedly been the highlight of my career to play a part in

helping to preserve this historic property that has extraordinary support from the community and public officials.”

Westtown Township says it plans to undergo a master planning process for Crebilly Farm that will include input from the public that has so steadfastly supported it.

### **About Gawthrop Greenwood**

Gawthrop Greenwood, PC has offices in West Chester, Berwyn and Philadelphia, PA and Greater Wilmington, DE serving clients throughout the greater mid-Atlantic region and nation. For more than a century, the firm has stood behind its core principle of providing high-quality legal services with personal attention. Gawthrop Greenwood’s diverse portfolio of clients comprises entrepreneurs, businesses, and governmental entities that entrust the firm with their representation in a wide range of matters including mergers and acquisitions, commercial litigation, estate and tax planning, land use and development, and domestic relations. A complete listing of the firm’s practice areas and attorneys, as well as a variety of legal resources, can be found at [gawthrop.com](http://gawthrop.com).

### **About Westtown Township**

Westtown is the second oldest municipality in Chester County and a very special community, with natural creek valleys, tree-canopied roadways, beautiful homes, vibrant parks, expansive open spaces, rolling landscapes, and high quality of life. While Westtown has experienced great change over the last few decades, much change has been accommodated in a manner that maintains unique community character. Westtown is dedicated to continued efforts to carefully guide changes and sustain the most important features of the community. For more information about our community, please visit [westtownpa.org](http://westtownpa.org).

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### **Media Contact:**

Ellen Langas, BTC Marketing, [elangas@btcmarketing.com](mailto:elangas@btcmarketing.com), 610-256-2946 (cell)