

**Food and Farming Exchange
Phillips Packing Company, Factory F Reuse
March 22, 2016**

The City of Cambridge has been identified as one of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) Center for Towns priority towns and for roughly five years we have been working on a variety of projects there. One key project was the purchase of the six acre site slated for Cannery Park. A key part of the Cannery Park conversation has been revitalization of a downtrodden industrial part of Cambridge - and most importantly the 60,000 sq. ft. Phillips Packing Company, Factory F which is adjacent and overlooks the future Cannery Park. The Phillips Building is the last remaining factory from the Phillips Company's empire of vegetable and food packing businesses which employed thousands and fed our troops during WWII. It has been empty for a few years and the condition of the structure has deteriorated. Today, Cannery Park, the Phillips Building and nearby company housing are all part of an overall revitalization we tentatively refer to as the "Packing District."

In support of such revitalization conversations, Cross Street Partners (CSP), a Baltimore-based real estate firm with deep involvement in Baltimore's local food movement and that provided assistance on the Eastern Shore Conservation Center, and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) are jointly pursuing planning and due diligence to explore the economic viability of redeveloping the Phillips Building in Cambridge. The shared goal for this planning period is to craft a reuse plan that is based on a thorough evaluation of the development opportunities and constraints.

While the final use program will be determined through the planning process, the initial concept is a Food and Farming Exchange, a broadly defined array of food related uses that acknowledge and support local hunger and nutrition needs, while at the same time building off the Eastern Shore's terrific farming resources and a growing local food economy of growers, makers, distributors, retailers, restaurants and marketers. An important objective will be to coordinate and complement with other Eastern Shore related food economy initiatives.

Both CSP and ESLC have committed financial and staff resources to the planning period. Work completed to date includes site and building inspections such as environmental Phase I and Phase II inspections, and structural analysis. We will be conducting an assessment of the food, farming, and hunger related components that are most viable at this location. This includes identifying prospective tenants, operators, and partners, and recommending strategies for coordinating other related initiatives in the region. The ultimate objective will be to launch a successful reuse of the property that supports the mission of ESLC in re-building the economy of Cambridge, and supporting the local food and farming industries while also celebrating the Eastern Shore's unique resources.