

Maren Toohill

From: John Mitchell <john.mitchell@springdellfarm.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Maren Toohill
Subject: Spring Dell Farm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

****THIS EMAIL WAS SENT BY AN EXTERNAL SENDER****

Dear Maren Toohill

Could you please forward this to the Planning Board and any other related committees.

Thanks

John

To the Planning Board:

I am writing on behalf of the abutters on the northeast side of Spring Dell Farm.

Like most people in this town we want to keep what's left of Littleton's agricultural heritage, of which Spring Dell Farm is one of the oldest and most active. But as is sometimes the case when local housing properties come up against the daily operations of an active farm, there are conflicts. In the case of the newly planned projects at Spring Dell Farm, it looks like the owners are inclined to do their

best to agree with any restrictions or limitations the neighbors suggest.

We do have some suggestions to smooth things out.

Inasmuch as the prevailing winds are out of the southwest, and have increased ever since the pine forest was cleared, the houses to the north and northeast are in the direct path of the noise and smells that would result from the gravel production, trucking, and the composting operations that are now planned.

As we understand it, the owners are willing to keep the new operations along the southwest boundary of the property, as far away as possible from housing and also to construct a berm to cut down on the gravel production noise. That, we hope, would mitigate most of the noise (although it is still a little worrisome since we can sometimes hear the rattle of gravel production at the Massachusetts Ready Mix operation, which is more than a half mile away.

We are also concerned about noise from the stump chipping work that is planned.

Nonetheless, if certain time limits and restrictions are in place as far as the gravel work is concerned, we could probably live with it.

Basically we would ask that gravel production be limited to months when people are not out in their gardens and yards, i.e. November through March, and that when the operation is completed and the farm road is finished, there would be no further commercial operations.

We were told that the compost project would be using leaves only and not foodstuffs or other waste sourced from urban areas. That way, we would hope that there would be no bad odors sweeping up across the open fields.

If these concerns are accounted for, we are all looking forward to an extension of the arable lands and the successful continuing operation of the farm. Having a working farm as a neighbor is far preferable to living next to yet another new housing development or an office park.

Sincerely

John Hanson Mitchell