



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Charles D. Baker
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Matthew A. Beaton
SECRETARY

RECEIVED

MAR 24 2017

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/eea>

OFFICE OF TOWN MANAGER

March 23, 2017

VIA EMAIL: asweet@westfordma.gov

Town of Westford
Board of Selectmen
Andrea Peraner-Sweet, Chair
Town Hall
55 Main Street
Westford, MA 01886

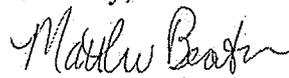
Re: Westford Agricultural Preservation Restriction – “APR 3”
Middlesex North Registry of Deeds, Book 10124, Page 169

Dear Chairperson Peraner-Sweet:

On September 22, 2016 the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (“Department”) submitted a letter (“Original Correspondence”) regarding the proposed amendment of an agricultural preservation restriction (“APR”) held by the Town of Westford. Since then the Town of Westford has received a letter from Gregor McGregor of McGregor & Legere and a Memorandum from Marylynn Gentry of the Mass Land Trust Coalition. They vary in their position and provide additional information that purports to both support and oppose the proposed APR amendment. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (“EOEEA”) and the Department would like to affirm the position taken in the Original Correspondence and make it clear that none of the additional information provided change this position. A copy of the Original Correspondence is attached for your convenience.

EOEEA understands that a vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to amend “APR 3” to allow a restaurant and banquet facility is on the warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting on March 25, 2017. Such a change in use contradicts the intent and purpose of the APR and would constitute an unauthorized release. EOEEA cautions the Town of Westford to carefully review this matter before taking any action inconsistent with Article 97 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and additional protections afforded by state law.

Sincerely,


Matthew Beaton, Secretary

Cc: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resource, Commissioner John Lebeaux
Enclosure