

From:

Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 4:01 PM

To: Maren Toohill <MToohill@littletonma.org>

Subject: Springdell Farm special permit hearing

Dear Maren Toohill,

Could you please forward my e-mail of support to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of appeals and wherever it is appropriate?

Thank you in advance,

Jill

Re: Springdell Farm special permit request

Dear members of Littleton's Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board,

I am a patron of Springdell Farm and I am asking for your support for Jamie Cruz's special permit for non-food composting on the site of her farm.

The acceptance of the permit is crucial for Jamie Cruz to be able to purchase her mother's land and keep it in her family as well as secure the future of the farm as a whole.

I "found" this farm during the pandemic at a time when only a few were permitted to enter a grocery store at a time. They offered the community a safe outdoor environment to shop for their produce and other offerings even through the cold winter. Not a small feat to move produce in and out to avoid freezing. It was quickly apparent to us that this farm is more than a business, but also a part of the local community as well as her family's home.

The produce is robust and fresh, I have never smelled or tasted any trace of a pesticide that we sometimes experience with what is offered in the supermarkets. The livestock are well cared for and healthy, we have never detected any odors when we visit there weekly.

Family farms are becoming such a scarcity. My own town of Westford might have but one or two left and at least one of them is owned by someone out of state.

One of the last orchards (Drew), was put into conservation by the town as an agricultural preservation and has largely been a failure as the current owner has let it go to ruin.

Lots of towns struggle to keep and fund open spaces.

Littleton is lucky to have the open spaces that the three farms on rte. 119 provide and pay into the tax revenue. Once something like that is gone, it is gone forever.

If the land in question were to fall to development, it won't be long until there is pressure for the other two farms to sell by developers and new residents not wanting to co-exist with a farm.

I hope my letter helps you to consider granting Jamie Cruz and Springdell Farm the special permit.

Sincerely,

Jill Cresey-Gross

13 First Street

Westford, Ma 01886