



March 9, 2018

SENT VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND EMAIL

City of Concord City Council
41 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301
cityclerk@concordnh.gov

Re: Outdoor Recreational Facilities, Generation Farm

Dear Honorable Mayor Bouley and Members of the City Council,

I write on behalf of my client, Generation Farm, regarding the proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance, Article 28-2, Zoning Districts and Allowable Uses, Article 28-5, Supplemental Standards, Article 28-9, Administration and Enforcement and Glossary, as amended by the Planning Board at its meeting on February 21, 2018. Please make this letter a part of your record in this matter.

Generation Farm is a small Certified Organic farm located at 44 Graham Road in Concord. The husband and wife team, James and Marley Stever, started Generation Farm in 2012 looking to provide the greater Concord community with fresh food farmed responsibly. They specialize in salad greens and grow on a few acres of open field as well as two greenhouses for season extension. With sustainability and responsible stewardship of the land a primary goal, they produce their electricity through solar power and heat their barn with a wood pellet burner. Over 70 acres of surrounding forest and wetland are owned by the farm and have been left untouched as a haven for multiple different native species.

To diversify and strengthen the revenue of Generation Farm, they host various events at the farm, including inside their barn. Currently, it is unclear how such events fit into the City's Code of Ordinances. The proposed amendment would clarify that these agricultural events are permitted through obtaining a condition use permit for an Outdoor Recreational Facility, which would allow Generation Farm to use its barn as an integral part of events because it exists prior to the amendment.

Per the amendment, Generation Farm holding events as an Outdoor Recreational Facility would continue to constitute agritourism, an agricultural operation. As a consequence, the laws promoting the maintenance and enhancement of agriculture in New Hampshire would still benefit Generation Farm. For example, such laws would include the zoning laws at RSA 674:32-a through 674:32-d, as well as current use





taxation per RSA 79-A, of which Generation Farm would continue to gratefully avail itself.

On behalf of Generation Farm, I thank you for your attention to this important amendment.

Very truly yours,

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