



Dr. Walter Schneider
Centre Region Code Administration
2643 Gateway Drive, Suite #2
State College, PA 16801

February 6, 2013

Dear Dr. Schneider,

Greenmoore Gardens is a Certified Organic farm serving State College and the surrounding community.

I request an urgent meeting with you. Code has closed a building on the Greenmoore Gardens CSA Farm. In this building is our harvest room. This is the building to which we bring our harvest for washing prior to providing this produce to our members. We have greenhouses within which our growing continues and therefore we harvest year-round. Our membership, who has already paid money for their produce, come once a week in Winter on Fridays between 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm to select what they want to take home. Moreover, without the ability to wash our vegetables we create a greater health hazard and a liability for our membership and our farm. I am simply continuing the use of this agricultural building as it has been for decades in order to provide food to the community.

The letter we received from Centre Region Code Administration dated yesterday February 5, 2013, by Tim Knisely, your Senior Fire Inspector, implies a very different view of the building than what appeared to be a positive view held by him during his visit on Monday, February 4, 2013. He initially questioned the floor loading but was pleasantly surprised by the heavy duty steel bar joists supporting the 2nd floor. The first floor is cinder block with steel bar joists and wood frame for the 2nd floor; all in very good condition. There are no structural concerns with regard to the current safety of this building. I make it a point to maintain all my agricultural buildings. If there were any safety issues they would have been repaired.

I had an architect review Mr. Knisely's letter and he said he could not determine what was wrong with the building by reading it. Therefore, at the meeting, we would like a detailing of what you feel are the deficiencies causing the concern. Our architect can not help us formulate a plan or what drawings/details are needed unless we understand the specific basis for the letter from your office.

With regard to the portion of the second floor of this building which contains the farm kitchen, we coordinated with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and followed all procedures that the State Required. A jurisdictional applicability did not come to mind to cause question of

the State's authority. Last June we received the Wholesale production and Retail food sales licenses for the kitchen. The kitchen component of the building will be a longer term effort since the architect will need time to draw up the blueprints. But the harvest room on the first floor could have contractors in it immediately to make any changes that may be needed while we continue to use it. Without the ability to use this building I would lose my entire farm livelihood and be forced to lay off my workers as well as fail to deliver food to my longstanding members in the community.

We see in your letter that you have barred us from going into the building. But, traditionally, this has been a farm use building and serves multiple critical functions for the farm. For example, one of these functions is crop storage; both in a root cellar (cool room) as well as our walk-in cooler. By disallowing our entry into the building we cannot retrieve our stored crops before they spoil. Without this building the farm can't operate. We request a quick expediting of this situation so I can continue farm operations. I look forward to a cooperative process.

Please see attached photo of the harvest building as well as a brochure about our CSA farm, Greenmoore Gardens.

I look forward to your quick response to this urgent matter.

Respectfully Yours,

Mark C Maloney

Mark C. Maloney
Greenmoore Gardens, CSA Farm

C: Ken Soder, Patton Township Zoning Office
Kevin Kassab, State College Department of Ordinance Enforcement and Public Health
Brian Snyder, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture
Leslie Zuck, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Certified Organic
Erik Foley-DeFiore, Campus Sustainability Office, The Pennsylvania State University
Greenmoore Gardens Membership Information File