

Independence Inn
6 Drake Hill Road
Strafford, New Hampshire 03884

August 23, 2023

Blair Haney
Town Contract Planner
Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Strafford, NH 03884

Dear Mr. Haney,

I am writing to follow up on the Planning Board meeting Stephen Nass and I attended earlier this month. We appreciated the frank and helpful discussion with the Board, and understand better their concerns as well as the parameters under which the Independence Inn operates within the Town of Strafford. It was very informative and collaborative, which I appreciated very much.

As you may have heard, our August 6 Farmers' Market went off without a hitch; we ensured that the vendors parked on the grass along the side of the leach field, leaving plenty of space in our parking lot for attendees. We had a steady stream of attendees all day (I estimate about 50-60 people stopped by), and I believe that the Women's Club was pleased with how their bake sale went. As the Board suggested, we had someone sitting at the entrance all day to make sure no-one parked on the street (a solution that is not cost effective long term).

Despite the relatively smooth August market, we have decided to cancel the September and October markets. This decision was not based upon the need to submit a plan for the Board's approval, but rather was based upon prioritizing where to use our limited staffing and other resources. We have asked our new chefs to keep their focus on the important work of developing and testing our new menu. As a result, they do not have the bandwidth to also manage the Farmer's Market, and I and the other owners are also focused on other priorities that are more pressing to ensure the success of the business.

We will certainly reconsider this decision for next summer, and if we decide to relaunch the Farmer's Market in 2024 we will come to the Planning Board well in advance with our plans.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Carol Pratt

Carol Pratt
Board Chair
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