

NRB - Comments

From: Erin McMullen <emcmullen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 11:40 AM
To: NRB - Comments
Cc: redbarnbrewingvt@gmail.com; Erin McMullen
Subject: Natural Resources Board v. Red Barn Brewing, LLC

Dear NRB Board,

I am submitting my comment on the recent citation that is pending due to our ACT 250 violation. Let me start by saying this barn is a part of our home. This barn is the heart of our property. Over the years, we have raised cattle, chickens and an abundance of bunnies in this barn. We have hosted numerous parties, showed projector movies for our children and their friends, we have set up tents for our kids sleepovers in our barn. My brother in law's wedding was held in our barn, and most memorably my own wedding. This barn has seen it all. Over the course of these years, we have continuously updated and stabilized our barn. With the several events and activities that occur in our barn, regular maintenance is necessary to assure safety of our family and guests.

My husband, Jeremy, and I have always wanted to make our home our business. We have many, many hopes and dreams for our property. Some may come to fruition; others may be biting off more than we can chew. For now, starting the small batch brewery with our friends is front and center. Yes, we started work on the brewery prior to completing the ACT 250 application. As soon as we found out the Act 250 constraints and that we were in violation we stopped. I admit, I do not understand why we are not allowed to touch our existing barn on our own property? 3/4 of the barn is space we still personally use for our family. If you were to walk into the barn today, you would see a small portion of the barn that has been partially renovated. That is the brewery. The majority of our beautiful 3 story barn is wide open space dedicated to children, friends and currently a lot of Christmas wreath making.

I feel there is a need for the board to understand our intentions and our sincere misunderstanding of the ordinance with the ACT 250 application. Again, I would like to reiterate that once we found out we were in violation we ceased all construction. No one was harmed during this work and we had no impact on the environment. I would like to request that the NRB Board to reassess the current citation and kindly waive the detrimental penalty fee. It would be a great disservice to cease our brewery as potential local business owners, as well as to our community.

Best,
Erin McMullen
Co-owner/property owner