

New Paltz Times, December 11, 2008

In Support of Rivendell Winery

The article "Going Sour" lacks taste in its title. It sounds like you're part of the mentality which has victimized Rivendell Winery.

While I was granted Agricultural designation for my property which adjoins that of Susan Wine and Robert Ransom's (and Mr. Johnson to their Eastern border got his as well), these folks were denied. I can't understand what reasoning was used by our County representatives to recommend against their right to use their property for agriculture.

Whatever legitimate concerns there may be for related issues of commercial use, we must change the laws for every farmer and not just Rivendell. Down the road a bit is Walkkill View Farm which sells all kinds of stuff they don't grow, a coffee shop with baked goods, coolers with refrigerated drinks, and have expanded into landscaping supplies.

Has anyone expressed a concern for this growing enterprise or do they get a pass, along with many other local farmers. This only highlights the discriminatory nature of the attacks on Rivendell.

As for the issue of added traffic, that is a legitimate concern. Right now trucks and many commercial vehicles are roaring through Albany Post Rd with little notice from the community. Dump trucks and overweight tractor trailers from a mining company in Kerhonkson are traveling across the mountain, through Minnewaska and the Mohonk Preserve, turning East on 299 then turn South on Albany Post Rd to Walkkill (avoiding Rt-44/55 & adding 10 miles to their trip). Many other large trucks are constantly using this route as a short cut and speeding vehicles are a constant occurrence. So, should we be allowing yet more potential traffic to this busy intersection? Well, the answer is that the rules have to apply to all. If we're not doing anything about an already dangerous problem, how can there be such a single minded concern by the neighbors?

I can't help but feel that as much as I understand and agree with the concerns of my neighbors, Rivendell has been singled out unfairly while we look the other way with other farm enterprises and traffic issues.

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New Paltz