

RIVENDELL WINERY
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK

For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Wine 917-626-5535
Robert Ransom 914-474-3495

January 27, 2010

New Paltz, NY – Yesterday, Rivendell Winery and its president, Susan Wine, filed an appeal of their Article 78 lawsuit against the Town of New Paltz Zoning Board of Appeals with the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court in Albany. They are appealing the lower court's decision that when a building on a farm property is used for the processing or sales of the farm product, that use is not agricultural.

"The lower court ruling of November, 2008 was bogus and political. The decisions of the ZBA and the Building Inspector that precipitated it were clearly motivated by a few prominent and vocal neighbors and not by the facts or the law," said Mrs. Wine. "The appellate court granted us the right to file our appeal after it reviewed the facts of the case and we hope this is the beginning of the end of our nightmare."

In 2007, after numerous conversations with the Building Inspector, the Planning Board, and other Town officials, Wine purchased the agriculturally zoned property at the corner of County Route 299 and Albany Post Road in order to move her well-established winery operation there. Because the Town prohibited Rivendell from operating at its new property and the lease at its Gardiner location expired at the end of 2008, it was forced to close after 21 years of operation.

"It's a terrible shame that this situation caused the closing of one of the region's most popular wineries," said Robert Ransom, another Rivendell principal. "It's an even bigger shame, and downright duplicitous, that New Paltz, which prides itself on being pro farming, environment, and open space, would take such an approach to one of its own successful and popular farms. It's contrary to the Town's Comprehensive Plan and its Open Space Plan. And it is outright discrimination because the Town allows processing and sales to take place in many farm buildings within the Town."

For further information please contact Susan Wine at 917-626-5535 or Robert Ransom at 914-474-3495.