

NRB - Comments

From: Nicholas Flanders <naternag@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:05 AM
To: NRB - Comments
Subject: Comment on Red Barn

Hello:

I am a retired Principal Environmental Specialist with the International Finance Corporation, the private sector financing arm of the World Bank Group. I have carried out environmental assessments of projects in many parts of the world, including brewery projects. I also live down Oneida Road from this project.

I do not see a material adverse effect that would justify a sanction. The alterations that were made to the building would be of no concern to the NRB or to the objectives of Act 250, but for the fact that Red Barn Brewing was contemplating a commercial operation and, perhaps mistakenly, started doing some carpentry. Indeed, some elements of the alterations could be considered necessary for the safety and security of the domestic use of the building.

I understand from reading other comments that there may be a minimum fine. In my professional opinion, however, given that this matter relates to a minor procedural, not a material, issue a warning would have been the appropriate action.

Given that the proposed fine is inappropriate to the scope and scale of the risk and impacts of the activities to-date, the message that will come out this proposed citation is that people contemplating starting small enterprises may not want to risk running afoul of laws and regulations intended to control the large - and well resourced - developments.

Sincerely your,

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