

August 23, 2022

David Kois, PP, AICP  
Deputy Zoning Official  
Township of Hillsborough  
379 South Branch Road  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

**RE: Stop Work Order  
203 Homestead Road; Hillsborough**

Dear Mr. Kois,

I received a copy of the stop work order dated August 22, 2022 addressed to Mid-State Industrial Park for the ongoing farming/cultivation work at 203 Homestead Road. The Township's stop work order references disturbances of critical areas on site such as wetlands and associated transition areas as well as a stream corridor. In speaking with the farmer who recently cultivated the area, I was advised that all wooded tree areas along the small stream that cuts across the property have been respected and not disturbed. Additionally, the farmer advised me that he did not expand any of the previously cultivated areas along the stream corridor.

With regards to the drainage ditch located in the central part of our agricultural fields, the farmer advised me that he did recover a fair amount of trash and large debris in that ditch and used a machine to clear and pull that material out of the drainageway as part of maintenance activities. Upon completion of the trash removal, the farmer indicated to me that he raked that ditch for cultivation. He also advised me that no filling of wetlands occurred during his maintenance and cultivation work.

I also consulted with Eric Greif who is the contract purchaser of our property and who has a pending application with the Hillsborough Planning Board. Eric informed me that there may also be some concerns from the Township regarding tree clearing activities on site. In response to this additional concern, the farmer advised me that no trees were cleared on site. I was also not made aware that the Township expressed an interest in visiting the site. No advance notice of the visit was provided to either Eric or myself. Having the farmer on site during the visit would have been beneficial.

I'm not aware of any local or state approvals necessary for the related farming activities that have recently occurred on site. The Township reached out to me earlier in the year and advised me that if the farming work was not initiated this season, I would risk losing my farmland assessment. I wish to continue and complete the farming activities to maintain our farmland assessment and encourage the Township to resolve this matter as soon as possible. We are available to meet on site if desired to further clarify our position and assess what approvals, if any, are warranted for the ongoing farming work.

Very Truly Yours,

  
Sandy Kerzner

