



Temple Volunteer Fire Department

423 NH Route 45

Po Box 80

Temple, NH 03084

603-801-8607

Chief: George Clark Deputy Chief: Ken Caisse

To Selectboard and ZBA Chair Mr. Kieley,

I am writing this letter regarding Steppingstone farm and event center as it pertains to a fire watch. It seems there could be some misunderstanding about a fire watch being present at events held at this location. I would like to mention first that Ms. Martin has been working with myself to bring the building up to fire code. As she has mentioned she hired a Fire Code engineer to do an inspection for her and provide her with a report. Ms. Martin sent me the report and after looking it over there were several things I did not agree with; so, I contacted the State fire marshal's office for input. After their review, they agreed with me and felt it would be best to send down an inspector to meet with me to go over the report. I have met with the inspector and gone over the report, and we feel in the best interest of all involved he should make a site visit with me as there may be several options available to come into compliance. There are also many questions that need to be answered. A site visit with both of us and talking with Ms. Martin will answer these questions. We are scheduled to meet there 6/1/21 in the afternoon. I will get a report together and sent out as soon as possible after our meeting.

As for the fire watch, it is necessary when a required fire alarm and/or fire sprinkler system is lost-prohibiting the use of the effected structure for large events. In Ms. Martin's instance, changing the occupancy of a building that requires a new system to be installed, a fire watch can be used. For me to provide a fire watch the barn must be up to full code minus the sprinkler system. This means all emergency lights installed; all illuminated exit signs installed; all doors that are not exits need "not an Exit" signs; and anything else that is identified during our inspection tomorrow. So, until all this is done, I will not be going to the select board asking for their approval to provide a fire watch. I notified Ms. Martin that I cannot provide a fire watch until the building was up to code. If she decided to continue with the wedding, she needed to make sure there were enough staff to aid should an event occur. However, I cannot officially give her the okay to have an event in a building that is not up to code.

Any questions feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Clark', written in a cursive style.

George Clark
Fire Chief