

First, we want to make it clear that our concerns shared are by no means a personal attack towards the Vernons. Our concerns are completely separate from them as neighbors. In fact, we allow their family to utilize our property to get to and from the rail trail safely, we've had their girls over to groom our horses, jump on our trampoline, and build forts. Our concerns are strictly focused on their business. We moved to Newfields from Stratham 5 years ago. When we moved here the Vernon Family Farm was a farm store and they conducted one event a month with rotisserie chicken and acoustic music. During this time we supported their farm store weekly and attended their events. We even made a generous donation towards their chicken refrigeration. Fast forward 5 years, they are serving alcohol and amplifying music every Friday and Saturday night, and holding other events on Thursdays and Sundays. We do like the concept of the Vernon Family Farm business, however we strongly feel their events need to be conducted in a commercial zoned area. Piscassic Road, especially situated around the blind drive where we live, was not built to accommodate the amount of traffic these events bring in. Entering and exiting our home has always been a stress for us as a family considering we have young drivers. It was something we knew we would have to live with when purchasing our home. The added traffic due to the events and the simple fact that alcohol is being served within feet of our home weekly adds to that stress. We purchased our forever home in a residential/agricultural zoned area, that hasn't changed and we do not feel this added stress is one a resident of Newfields should have to endure.

We also have strong concerns in regards to how they are utilizing their conservation land. The conservation easement established in 2004 by the Anderson Family clearly states the purposes of the easement is "the prevention of any uses of the property that will significantly impair or interfere with the conservation values of the property". We are not mechanics, but we do know cars leak oil, gas, and antifreeze. Using conservation land as a parking lot goes against the purposes of this conservation easement. Having property in town conservation we are expected to uphold the intent of our easement. Annually the Conservation Commission comes to our property to monitor our Land Use, Management, and Activities. They have always done a thorough job of this on our property. We went to the town to inquire the Conservation Easement Monitoring Report for the Anderson/Vernon Property. When inquiring information we came across an e-mail to the Co-Chairs of the Conservation Commission dated 12/5/2022 from Sarah Callahan, who monitored the Anderson/Vernon Easement. It states that "the primary product sold and advertised for the Summer Community Music Events is not in fact chicken dinners, but a live music venue. Parking would not be allowed on the easement area if the activities occurring within the Outside Easement area were determined to be something other than agritourism.". What she is saying is that the Music Events do not fall under Agritourism. How is it that the Co-Chairs of the Conservation Commission are made aware of this and still allow the conservation land to be used as a parking lot? We strongly feel the town needs to uphold The Anderson's Family intent for this land. Also, we could not find record of a Conservation Easement Monitoring Report of the Anderson/Vernon property from the Town of Newfields in 2023.

On a final note in regards to Agritourism, by law you cannot adversely impact your neighbors property. In

addition to their events negatively impacting our property value, we feel our families safety is being compromised due to the blind drive, added traffic, and alcohol consumption. We have done a lot of research on Agritorism and have learned that agritorism requires business owners to work with their neighbors. Unfortunately in the 5 years we have lived here the Vernon Family Farm has never come to us regarding their business plan and have not taken into consideration how their events could negatively impact their neighbors. In fact due to their lack of transparency, we felt the need to reach out to them last fall to express our concerns. In addition to our conversation last year, I recently spoke with Nicole Vernon. She informed me as neighbors we have not made any compromises. Not only is this an invalid statement, as neighbors we should never have to compromise our families safety. In fact we have allowed the Newfields Police to park their vehicle on our property during their events for safety purposes. We have had to alter my husbands work schedule on Fridays, working on west coast time and cancel our horse back riding times, just to name a few. Trying to be neighborly ourselves you can see our frustration when reading a recent social media post from the Vernon Family Farm attacking abutters for voicing their concerns. This type of behavior goes against the way in which agritoursim is intended to be conducted.