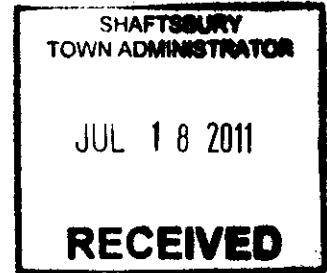


Kathleen Geneslaw  
145 White Farm Lane  
Shaftsbury, NY 05262



July 18, 2011

Shaftsbury Select Board  
Town Hall  
Buck Hill Road  
Shaftsbury, VT 05262

Dear Select Board:

Last month the DRB was reviewing an application for TAM Inc. for a proposal for a commercial compost facility in the RR District. The Town Plan 9.6 Policies states that:

*Recycling, reuse, and composting should play a major role in solid waste management for the Town of Shaftsbury. Any future landfills, transfer stations, composting facilities and related uses **should not** be located on important agricultural land and should be low in impact and volume in order to preserve the small town character of Shaftsbury and its natural environment, and to limit heavy truck traffic, prevent air, surface water, groundwater and noise pollution, and promote the public safety. The recently enacted solid waste section of the Zoning Bylaw should support these efforts.*

Although composting is cited in the Town Plan it became evident that the Bylaws are essentially silent on the subject of composting. However, as we know many of us carryout backyard composting and many farm operations include compost of farm waste as part of their farming activities. But the proposal before the DRB, met neither of those categories. It is purely a commercial enterprise, part of TAM's Solid Waste Business. The compost proposal was for collection of 5,000 cubic yards of food waste per year from institutions including hospitals, colleges, grocery stores and restaurant (no Shaftsbury household food waste would be used per the testimony of TAM at the DRB meeting as household food waste did not meet the economy of scale) and 10,000 cubic yards of manure. This waste would be collected from NY, MA and VT as indicated on the Agency of Natural Resources application. This proposal has been a great cause for concern by the residents of North Shaftsbury and we believe that a comprehensive look at the issue of composting without the pressure of an application will allow for establishing operational criteria and siting criteria designed to protect residents of the Town, existing businesses and would allow a potential operator to know the conditions under which a facility could exist.

We are asking the Select Board to pass a resolution to put a moratorium for a period of say 6 months for any applications for commercial composting, during this time we ask that the Select Board request that the Planning Commission research the issue of composting and provide recommendations to the Select Board for changes in the Bylaws. Recognizing the technical, practical, and community impact elements, we are suggesting that a working committee be formed to assist the Planning Commission. We suggest the working committee be made up of at least a livestock farmer, a crop farmer and one or more community members with an interest in the subject. I would be happy to serve on this committee. Over the past month I have done extensive research both with the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets as well as State Statutes related to composting and online research.

We are hopeful that the Select Board will take positive steps to establish Bylaws with respect to commercial composting. We support composting but proper controls and siting requirements are necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these suggestions, on behalf of the North Shaftsbury Residents for Environmentally Responsible Development.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen Geneslaw*

Kathleen Geneslaw

*Jeri Schoof*  
*[Signature]*  
*Michael R. Pace*  
*Tom Schoof*  
*Mary Thompson*  
*Norman Hornum*  
*[Signature]*