

# Town of Amherst – June 20, 2020

## Guidelines for Minor Site Plan Approval

### Agricultural Uses



#### Purpose

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Town of Amherst has issued an Executive Order to encourage farm improvements by streamlining the site plan review process. Farmers seeking to expand production or storage capacity in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency are eligible.

Given the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19 and the economic implications to small businesses, including agribusinesses, the Town will temporarily reclassify qualifying improvements for agriculture production and storage as minor site plans. The temporary re-classification of actions involving agricultural uses is meant to provide some economic relief by reducing the review time for approval, thus allowing agribusinesses to secure federal funding, including grants which are now being made available. This designation will reduce the review time by allowing the Town Planning Director to approve projects rather than the Planning Board.

#### Application Eligibility:

- Applicant must have an active agribusiness in the Town of Amherst.
- Business must have appropriate zoning to permit the proposed expansion.
- Petitioners must have a pre-application meeting with Planning Department staff.

#### Requirements/Limitations:

- Petitioner/Applicant must submit a Minor Site Plan Application with required documents, the application may be found at the following hyperlink:  
[http://www.amherst.ny.us/pdf/planning/applications/application\\_minor.pdf](http://www.amherst.ny.us/pdf/planning/applications/application_minor.pdf)
- Petitioner must submit a complete application.
- Proposed agricultural activities must be horticulturally based.
- Proposed operations will not produce unreasonable noise as stated by Chapter 108 of Town Code.
- Proposed operations will not produce obnoxious or noxious fumes, i.e. those that are physically harmful to living beings
- Proposed operations do not include aerial distribution of fertilizer or chemicals.
- Use of fertilizers or chemicals will occur on site and not be used in a manner that requires transportation off site by air, land or water.
- The storage of bulk flammable liquids, fertilizers or chemical fertilizers is limited to that necessary to conduct agribusiness operations on site, and no storage shall be permitted for offsite use or sale.

#### Contacts for Assistance:

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