

To the Town of Stoneham

April 29, 2013

As proud members of the Stoneham community for over 80 years, Weiss Farm and the Weiss family have always tried to give back to our Town. As with everything in life, there are beginnings and endings and that is why I am writing this letter to all of you. You will soon be hearing of a new beginning for Weiss Farm and me, as I have decided to sell the Farm.

It has been twelve difficult years since my husband, Saul, passed away. During those twelve years I have run Weiss Farm with the help and support of my loyal staff and members of the community. However, as an owner and operator, I alone have had to shoulder the stress, financial risk, changing legal environment and uncertainty that comes with running a business, let alone a neighborhood agricultural business in a suburban residential area which has changed dramatically over the past years.

During the past five years, I have learned the difficult lesson that my ability to control outside forces that affect the Farm has become less and less. I have spent many years in stressful litigation with one of my neighbors, although the outcome was a favorable one it took a toll emotionally and financially. Currently, I am still involved with an ongoing dispute with our Town and the State Department of Environmental Protection just to keep operating the Farm at a significantly reduced capacity. My ability to earn a living from the business has decreased and is uncertain at best. I have been holding on to the Farm primarily to preserve and honor the Weiss family legacy; however, I find that I can no longer shoulder the ongoing cost, stress, uncertainty and fears.

I have fought the temptation to sell the Farm for years. My friends, family and advisors have ultimately helped me to see that selling is the only realistic option for me. After five years of court fights and the prospect of further litigation with the Town and the State, I have decided to sell the farm. I will not be closing abruptly but will continue to operate the Farm for well over a year while the new owner pursues their plans for the property. I selected the planned new owner, John M. Corcoran and Company, after much research because I believe that they will be sensitive to the community and the environment. They have also pledged to me that the name "Weiss Farm" will continue to be associated with the site in name of the new endeavor.

I have made arrangements to sell most of the Farm. I will retain ownership of my home and surrounding yard area at 170 Franklin Street. Given my personal attachment to the Farm and the community, for the foreseeable future, I will continue to reside in my home. I will be a close neighbor to the new life of Weiss Farm.

Although this is a difficult decision for me, I made it knowing that I have fought the good fight and have been comforted by friends assuring me that they would have given up long before me.

I thank you all for your support over these many years and look forward to seeing you for many more to come.

Sincerely,
Donna M. Weiss