

Tax lot/map

17 03 10 TL 2400 (also applies to adjacent properties)

I have been an agricultural land preservationist for 38 years.

Served on the 1990 plan commissioners task force.

I also have paid a hefty price for testifying against the interests of one of my past landlords in order to preserve farmland.

However, our parcel of farmland is not worth preserving for agriculture:

- Rocky, coarse sand, and shallow unproductive zones are scattered irregularly throughout the acreage, comprising about 50% of the land area.
- Attempts to remove large rock both manually and mechanically have proven ineffective.
- Placing soil amendments, cover crops, and allowing land to go fallow (no cropping) as many as 3 years is expensive and non-rewarding.
- Farming techniques and efficiencies do not allow skipping poor production areas, so they receive all the same input costs for seed, fertilizer, irrigation and harvesting as good soil, yet without net profit, and usually at net loss.

We have been placing composted leaves, hundreds of truckloads per acre, several years in succession, in an effort to create a soilless medium to grow crops on some of these unproductive areas.

- We own sufficient acreage to provide the crop production we need but due to poor soil, we must lease land that has better soils to generate income. This is an expense that has significant impact to our profitability.
- Casual observation of the field appears to be green, lush, productive. During harvest, though, small heads of grain, short partially filled ears of corn, stunted plants of fruit or vegetables with poor quality produce confronts harvesters. Significant quantities of culls or low market value products are left in the field or sold at low prices.

In conclusion, our attempts to be profitable producers on our own land by various soil enhancements has been somewhat successful from a production standpoint,

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but a failure due to the costs of doing so.

It is my contention that use of the land for something other than agricultural production is justified.

In considerations for potential zones for future commercial development, to dismiss our area due to its agricultural significance seems in error.

Regards,

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