

Would you call Patterson's Fruit Farm or even the Burton Century Village museum a "school?" Even with field trips and educational demonstrations, no one would call them a "school." And yet the Bainbridge Fire and Zoning officials want to label a similar local program, Kelly's Working Well Farm, a "school," and in doing so, force unnecessary fixes to building and safety regulations, in addition to a shut down in operations.

Kelly's Working Well Farm has been in existence since 2012 and has afforded me, my family, and the local community the ability to take part in the morning chores on a working farm, learn about primitive building materials and methods, practice sustainable farming and share in a local time bank to give and receive resources within the community. They have hosted holiday fairs, pig roasts and art and craft evenings. Why, after seven years of incredibly hard work and creativity, would the local township officials come down so hard on this small working farm that is open to the public? That is really the mystery here over this swift and aggressive attack.

"We are willing to work with the fire marshal to come to a reasonable agreement about safety standards," said Kelly Clark, owner of the farm. Let's support her and the Farm in voicing our opinions to the Bainbridge zoning and fire departments to work out the issues and come to a reasonable agreement to keep such a unique and generous program active and growing in Bainbridge.

John Clegg