

Hi Melissa,

Thank you for providing the closure notice to the Conservation Commission and for sharing with me their concerns. It indeed saddens all of us to implement this temporary closure, as it is in our mission to protect places for the public to enjoy. However, Trustees president, Barbara Erickson, made this very difficult decision in response to Governor Baker's directive and guidance, and out of concern for the safety of visitors and staff in this unprecedented time.

Of note, the property/lot was overflowing the past few weekends and our farm staff commented on how close people were walking to each other, at least near the parking lot and entrance trails. They also commented how several dogs were brought to the farm (something not permitted in the CR nor by our farm's food safety protocol). Other open spaces and conservation land have also taken this safety measure including Mass Audubon and certain state parks. Due to this concentrated volume, there's no certainty that we can provide a safe place for visitors to enjoy while maintaining a safe distance from each other at these locations.

Please be assured that I shared the commission's concerns with our Director. Sadly, given the gravity of the health situation, we're not able to make exceptions on a case by case basis. As such and as noted in our press release, we strongly discourage people from driving to our properties and ask that they respect the closure for the benefit of all. Realizing that there are neighbors within safe walking distance to the farm, we emphasize that they be respectful and practice safety within the guidelines of the Governor's directive and refrain from bringing their dog should they choose to visit.

We very much appreciate our relationship with the Conservation Commission and value your input. We look forward to reopening our lots and welcoming people back to the property to enjoy everything the farm offers.