



February 2, 2017

Proposal for Composting Site at Cape Cod Fairgrounds

Compost With Me LLC (CWM) is a local, for-profit, business actively engaged in residential and commercial food scrap composting. CWM is a "community" composter, meaning we are committed to processing organics locally; ultimately maintaining a network of small compost sites so that waste materials are generated and composted within the same zip code. We are working to "close the loop" on food waste and return valuable nutrients to local farms and gardens.

Compost With Me seeks to form a partnership with the Barnstable County Agricultural Society which would allow CWM to develop and maintain a compost site at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds. This collaboration would benefit the Fairgrounds by having the compostable materials generated at on-site events composted at no charge, and would provide Compost With Me with a secondary site on which to compost materials from nearby commercial and residential customers.

The livestock parking area location on Ashumet Road is a promising location for a number of reasons. It has good access from Rte. 151, close proximity to the livestock barns (bedding and manure), plenty of space, and offers adequate buffer to residential neighbors and natural resource areas. Additionally the site is relatively flat, has nearby electrical hook-ups and access to water.

In return for use of the site, CWM proposes to provide "in kind" services to compost all of the food scraps and livestock bedding & manure generated by the County Fair as well as other events held at the fairgrounds. Collection of materials from events is expected to be done by Fairgrounds staff and/or volunteers, and CWM will provide assistance with logistical planning and signage. We will also provide guidance in the specification of compostable food service materials and tableware which will be required for a successful food scrap composting program. A share of the finished compost product will remain on the property to be used at your discretion. Hosting a successful on-site compost operation at the Fairgrounds will be a valuable regional resource and a great example for educational purposes.

Compost With Me currently collects food scraps from customers in Falmouth, Mashpee, and Hyannis. We currently compost exclusively at the Bunker Tree Farm in West Falmouth under an Agricultural permit. We utilize about 1 acre of the farm's ~10 acre total. For comparison purposes, in July 2016, we served 12 commercial clients and approximately 60 residential customers. The commercial food scraps collected in July 2016 totaled about 8.5 tons, plus about 1 ton of residential materials (~9.5 total). Estimated maximum amount of incoming organic materials to the Fairgrounds site is ~ 2 tons per week. This is the equivalent of approximately 30-35 / 32 gallon barrels in which we collect food scraps.

CWM owner Mary Ryther is a Certified Compost Operations Manager (CCOM), per authority of the U.S. Composting Council. Compost With Me maintains a \$1,000,000 Liability Insurance policy as well as Workers Compensation. We will provide assistance preparing documentation for the required compost site permit from MA DEP.

Please contact Mary with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Mary Bunker Ryther, LEED AP, CCOM
Owner, Compost With Me LLC

April 19, 2017

Hi Russ,

I'd like to address your question about how I propose to avoid or minimize potential annoyances at the proposed compost site at the fairgrounds. Compost sites often raise neighborhood concerns as the potential source of odors, vermin, blowing trash, or other nuisances.

I'd like to invite the board members to tour my current facility on my family's farm in West Falmouth where I have been composting since 2013. A visit to our property will show you what you can expect at the fairgrounds location- although my farm site does a much greater volume than proposed at Ashumet Road. One of our farm's adjacent neighbors to the north is the Bourne Farm, owned by Salt Pond Sanctuaries. During the summer months, Bourne Farm is frequently rented-out for outdoor weddings. I offer this as another example of how careful I must be in order to keep odors minimal, and not noticeable off the property. You can imagine what would happen if a 500-guest wedding were disrupted by odors from a compost site! That's simply not something I'd ever let happen.

Controlling compost odor is complicated, and not easily summarized in a couple of sentences. I have been trained to understand why compost can create foul odors, and equally importantly what to do to avoid such conditions. Most often, compost gets smelly when there is a lack of oxygen in the pile, and this is avoided by frequent turning or forced aeration. Keeping windrows covered in wet weather will keep the compost from getting too wet and becoming anaerobic. The "First Aid" we use to immediately control a bad smell is to cover the windrow in mature compost which acts as a bio-filter to control odors. I have many yards of completed compost at my farm site, so this is possible for me to do.

There are a number of techniques that I employ to keep animals, birds, and litter under control. These are all things I've learned in professional compost operator trainings, and have practiced on my current site. Cape Cod has rats living almost everywhere there is fresh water and a food source. They are present at most bird-feeders, horse barns, chicken coops, and are also living happily in the woods and open spaces. There is no denying that compost sites attract rats. I won't poison rats because it's inhumane and will also poison any birds of prey or animals that eat the poisoned rat. My rat control technique is to have my Norwich Terrier patrol my site. He innately knows how to kill rats efficiently.

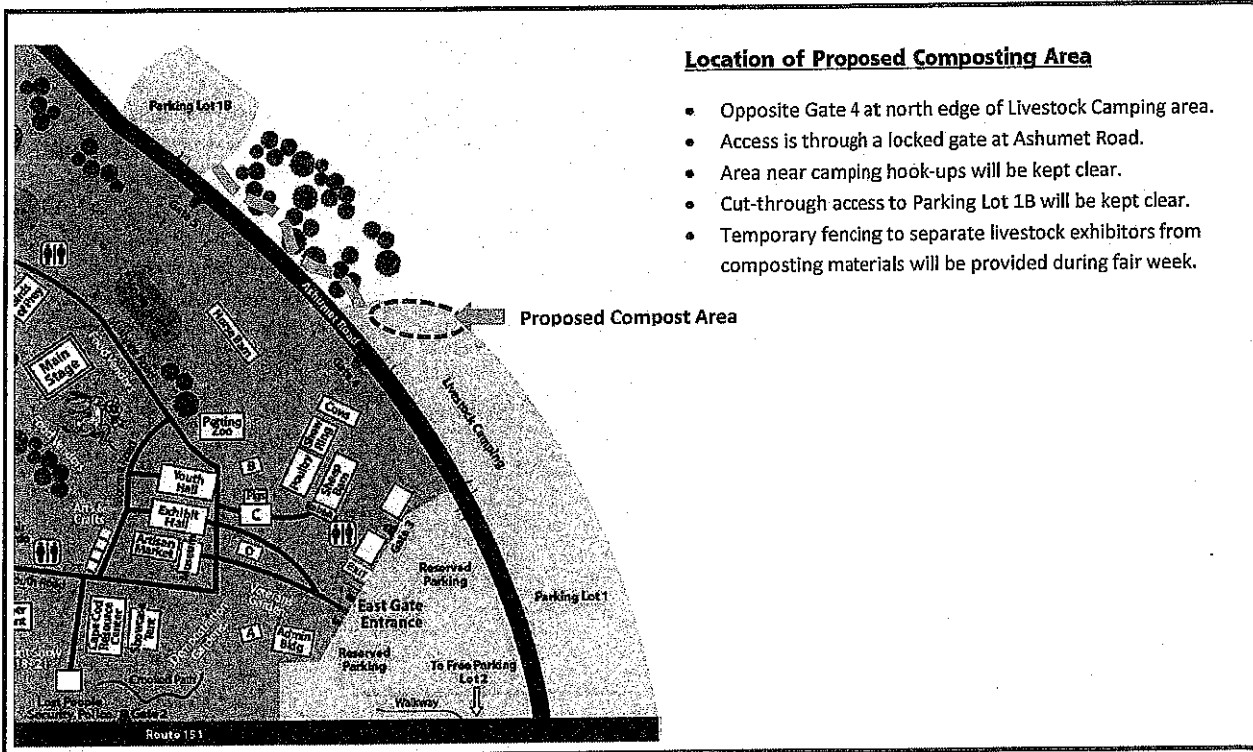
I keep birds and animals out of the compost by enclosing the freshly deposited food scraps with 2"x3" wire mesh fencing on the sides, and further protected (as needed) by wooden pallets. This keeps out larger animals, like coyotes. We mix "browns" (carbon-rich materials such as leaves, wood chips or shavings) with the fresh food scraps as they are deposited in the windrow. Additionally, each day's deposit is covered with several inches of "browns", and then covered with more wire fencing on top. This keeps the birds from pulling large items out of the pile, as well as keeping compostable tableware from blowing around in the wind.

It is a near-daily chore to keep a compost site running smoothly. It's something I've done successfully at my own farm, and I understand the board's concern that the property is treated with respect and care.

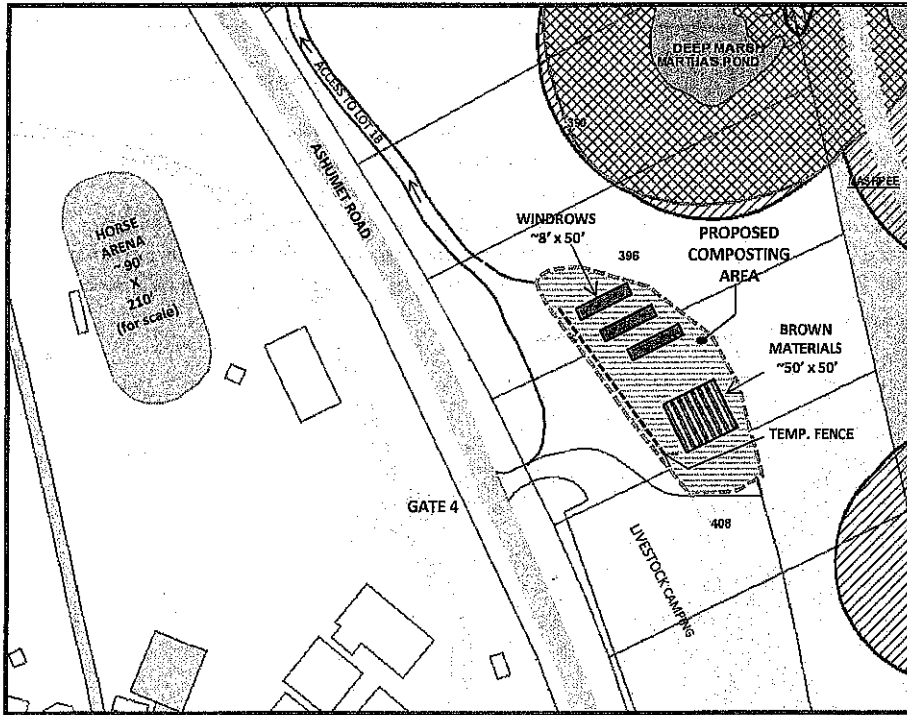
Sincerely,

Mary Ryther
Owner, Compost With Me LLC

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Plan of Proposed Compost Area

- 3 Windrows: Approx. 8' x 50'
- Windrow Spacing: 12' - 15'
- Storage for "Brown" Materials approximately 50' x 50'
- Temporary Fence during Fair: Approx. 200' in length, marking edge of compost area
- Compost Area will maintain generous buffer zone from wetlands set-backs.



08.26.16

SEEKING COMPOST SITE PARTNERSHIP

Mary Bunker Ryther- Owner, Compost With Me LLC

Compost With Me LLC is a local, for-profit company actively engaged in commercial food scrap composting. I am seeking partnership with a property owner who will allow use of their property as a compost site. Securing a suitable second site will enable me to grow my business to meet the demand for food scrap composting on the Upper Cape.

Compost With Me (CWM) collects and hauls food scraps from commercial, institutional, and residential customers for a fee. We currently compost on one site; my family's West Falmouth farm with an agricultural permit granted by the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources. In July 2016, CWM served twelve commercial clients and approximately 50 residential customers. The total amount of commercial food scraps collected in July totaled about 8.5 tons. We blend the food scraps with carbon-rich (i.e. "brown") materials, such as dried leaves, horse manure/shavings, wood chips, and other yard waste which we keep stock-piled on the farm. The finished compost product is marketed locally by the bag, and by the yard to local farmers and gardeners.

As founder and owner of the business, I have attended numerous trainings, regional and national conferences, completed a national certificate course for compost facility operators, and am a leader in local and regional efforts to promote the recycling of food waste.

Compost with Me seeks a partner offering use of 1-5 acres for food scrap composting. A minimum five year agreement is proposed.

Characteristics of a suitable site include the following features:

- Separation from residential properties (minimum of 500 feet)
- Close proximity to a primary road and highway access
- Flat areas for windrows and stock-piling materials
- Paved or gravel driveway suitable for truck & trailer traffic
- Fenced area with gated entrance to prevent unauthorized dumping.
- Access to running water and electricity
- Agricultural or Industrial zoning preferred
- Access to/ or permission to build hardened stone dust work surfaces or concrete slabs.

Food scrap composting methods vary widely in scale, method, and technology. CWM currently uses a hybrid system; combining static pile and turned windrow strategies. This system works well at this time on our small farm, but it would be preferable to purchase a vessel composter which will increase efficiency and limit the potential for nuisances. Due to the need for composting infrastructure on the Cape, there may be funding or grants available for state of the art equipment.

Proposed compensation for use of site is "in kind" composting services for all events at the fairgrounds. An on-site compost facility to process the food scraps generated by the fair and other events would be very efficient and highly beneficial to your organization. In addition, a portion of the finished compost product would remain on-site to be used at your discretion for gardens and/or to restore depleted soils. As the host of a successful compost operation, your organization will be recognized for its forward thinking. A well-run, state-of-the-art composting site will be a valuable local and regional resource, and an example which could be used for educational purposes.