

(February 12, 2007)

Dear Planning Board Members,

My husband Jeff and I are part of the co-housing community here in Edgecomb. I just wanted you to know that each of the families involved in the planning of the individual units went to the code enforcement officer's office on a Saturday morning with their individual plans and it was Mr. Lewis who told us the buildings could be moved, added on to, and have porches and decks. As a matter of fact, our plan was the exact footprint of the greenhouse, and he was the one who said we could move it and expand on it, so we changed our whole plan based on the discussion with him. It's a bit frustrating working with the planning board as you don't seem to have a way to be helpful with our plans. My husband is on the planning board in Isle au Haut and when there is some controversy the planning board meets with the individuals to help them figure out what they can do, not just what they cannot do. If we knew what we could do for sure, we would submit plans for just that. If we thought our plans would have required site review or subdivision plans, we never would have submitted them, hence we would not have had to hire our own lawyer to do more work for us, nor Mr. Shumadine to tell us we couldn't do what the code enforcement officer said we could. I know that for the planning board this is a huge issue because it is a new concept, but Jeff and I believe that co-housing is a way for regular people to be able to share resources and talents and live lightly on the earth, and we intend to be good neighbors in the Edgecomb community. I hope that the planning board will help us in planning our community so that we will be clear and you are clear that we are following all the regulations. Thank you for your attention.

Judith Burke