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Subject: Deep appreciation for Faith Michaels and lessons for us

From: Christie Dustman

To: Faith Michaels & Everyone Helping to Defend Our Industry

Hello all –

For some of you, you have seen Faith Michaels in action at Town meetings, strategy sessions, over her kitchen table for hours or on the computer. Faith took personal responsibility to defend our industry and worked tirelessly to protect all of us from capricious and mean spirited regulation. She did so at the cost of her own business and her own sanity! (I am sure she would agree!)

We all have a great debt to pay to Faith for her work and leadership. No amount of money could pay for the time and effort she has put forward – along with a few dedicated helpers.

Unfortunately our battle is not over – it is prolonged for one year while the issue is “studied” by the Town of Brookline. No doubt Faith will be a central figure in that effort. Imagine being on that committee and having to try to come to “consensus” with the petitioners behind this proposed ban.

I encourage you all to sit back and think – what can I do to thank Faith for fighting for me? What can I do to support her efforts on my behalf over this next year? What am I willing to do to protect my business?

For anyone at the meetings, the drive to ban all gas powered blowers has a lot of momentum and we need to heed this serious warning – if we don’t shape up and use our machinery in the most neighbor friendly, regulation abiding manner, we stand to be significantly hobbled. This is just the beginning of a new age of going after the easy-to-target perceived offenders in Climate Change and noise pollution- rather than going after Automobiles, wood smoke, etc.

As a landscape professional doing business in Brookline for 17 years, I cringe when I drive around and see operators blowing leaves into the street, or several operators focusing their blowers together in one spot. These incidents give our opponents the ammunition to fight us. I urge everyone to start taking

personal and business responsibility to rethink your use of blowers and mandate neighbor friendly manners and require your crews to use safety protection. If we don't police ourselves, we will be regulated.

Thank you for reading this – and please do reach out to Faith and express your gratitude.

Christie Dustman