



Morris Planning and Zoning Commission

Received 8:48 AM
September 28, 2020
Susan J. Jeanfavre
Assistant Town Clerk

September 28, 2020

3 East Street
Morris, CT 06763

Ben Paletsky
General Manager
The White Barn at South Farms
21 Higbie Road
Morris, CT 06763

Dear Ben,

Thank you attending the Special Meeting of the Morris Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday September 21, 2020. The need to find alternative ways of running your business during the COVID-19 Pandemic is understood; however, the recent events at your venue have had mixed reviews from the community. The feedback the Board has received includes both praise and serious concerns about the impact it has on the Town of Morris.

The main point of contention is that the board has determined that the operation does not fall under Executive Order 7MM. The reason for this is that this Executive Order was issued to provide ways to expand outdoor dining for businesses that at the time could not serve their diners indoors. As the restrictions were eased to allow some indoor dining, it still applied so that these establishments could come as close as possible to 100% capacity. As a result, all of the clauses in this Executive Order apply to re-configuring restaurants and other businesses that primarily serve food to allow them to serve the food outdoors.

As an event venue, your business does not qualify to be reconfigured based on Executive Order 7MM. Despite this, the Zoning Enforcement Officer granted approval of your application #PZC-20-24 for a Pavilion to be used as a stage for outdoor performances. Approval was granted because it was felt that it "may be allowed under COVID". This makes it temporary as the approval expires when the Executive Order expires.

When the board reviewed complaints about the use on September 16, 2020, you were well into a series of evening concerts, which were largely sold out. As a result, it was determined that Municipal Estoppel applied. Rather than issue a Cease and Desist Order, the Morris Planning and Zoning Commission voted on September 16, 2020 to "set a special meeting date" with you to "relieve/mitigate resident concerns related to event volume, lighting, traffic, frequency of events and comedic content". The temporary permit issued under Executive Order 7MM was allowed to stand while this is done.

If a Cease and Desist Order was issued, the Zoning Board of Appeals or a court likely might have made this determination. The board's motivation in doing this was to work with you to address the issues that neighbors had brought to the attention of the Morris Planning and Zoning Commission. That is clearly stated in that motion. This is documented in the attached minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting of the Morris Planning and Zoning Commission.



Morris Planning and Zoning Commission

During the meeting on September 21, 2020, it was understood that you wanted us to enumerate the issues that were reported to the board, which are as follows:

1. Event volume
2. Lighting
3. Traffic
4. Frequency of Events
5. Comedic content (subject matter)
6. Loitering – I have added this item to describe people who pull off the road or park in strategic places to capture the event for free.

This issue labeled as Loitering was added. It was reported and it creates an unsafe situation. It may require other authorities to get involved to manage these situations. That is why the Board of Selectmen have been copied.

There are e-mails attached that describe some of these situations that were attached to the last Monday's meeting agenda. There are a number of others I have received since then. What was available as of Monday September 21, 2020 at 7 PM was read into the record. All comments will be posted on the town website under the Planning and Zoning agenda/minutes area of the website and are attached to this letter.

The Board is interested in seeing if we can make things amicable for all interested parties. We are willing to work with you and the community to mitigate the issues listed above. Progress on the listed concerns will go a long way towards smoothing over the issues that have been presented to the Board.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the listed concerns and what steps South Farms will be taking to address them. The next Planning and Zoning regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm. We can try to do a meeting earlier; however, we just scheduled next Wednesday for the Town Plan. The Board will do what we can to work with you and the community to achieve an equitable resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Wiig", written over a horizontal line.

David R. Wiig

Chairman, Town of Morris Planning and Zoning Commission

Cc: Jeton Adili, Morris Zoning Enforcement Officer
Morris Planning and Zoning Commission
Tom Weik, First Selectman
Erica Dorsett, Selectman
Vincent Aiello, Selectman

Attachments: Morris Planning and Zoning Minutes – September 21, 2020
Communications Read Into the Meeting
Communications to the board after the meeting on September 21, 2020

MORRIS PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
COMMUNITY HALL • 3 EAST STREET • MORRIS, CONNECTICUT 06763

Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 16, 2020, 7 PM

Call-in Number: 929 205 6099
<https://zoom.us/j/2374621036?pwd=Q0puT0taVVFyYitVHBxd2pGN0ZYQT09>

Meeting ID: 237 462 1036
Passcode: 239114

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/2374621036?pwd=Q0puT0taVVFyYitVHBxd2pGN0ZYQT09>

One tap mobile
+19292056099,,2374621036#,,,,,0#,,239114# US (New York)

Barbara Bongolotti	David Wiig Chairman	
Del Knox	Robert McIntosh (secretary)	Alternates:
Veronica Florio	William Ayles Jr.	Katie Nack
Eileen Narbutas (Vice Chairman)	David Geremia Jr.	
	Staff: ZEO Tony Adili	

Special Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting opened at 7:03 p with David Wiig, Veronica Florio, Williams Ayles Jr, Robert McIntosh, David Geremia Jr, and Eileen Narbutas present.

2. Zoom Meeting Procedures

Vice Chairman Eileen Narbutas described the processes of the meeting so there would be no issues. The packet also had the instructions on how to get into the meeting and how the board would select people for public comment.

3. New Business

- a. PZC Application 20-24 – 21 Higbie Rd./124 Watertown Rd. – Approval re: Executive Order 7MM – southFARMS – Outdoor Concerts and Comedy Shows.

Public comments to the commission

Ben Paletsky the owner of the property was not present to the meeting. He provided a statement and David Wiig read it into the record.

The next thing was there was a public comment and the board received comments from residents of the town.

Beth Murphy: Beth lives on 209 East Street and she supports the activities at South

Farms. She said it is good for the town and brings people outside.

Heather Smith: Heather is the manager at Winvian Farm and she also supports Bens activities at South Farms and that it she thinks it an asset to the town.

Linnea Morris: Linnea understands the economic issues of the Covid 19 emergency. She also likes South Farms but also believes there issues such as noise. She is also a frontline worker.

Joel Skilton: Joel says there were errors with the COVID 19 emergency orders and agrees with Attorney Steve Byrne that the use is not permitted in that zone under the current regulations.

Joan Seabury: Joan is a frontline worker and she is upset by how loud the events are. She just wants peace and quiet.

Sandra Bertacinni: Sandra is concerned how these events fit with the rural character of the Town of Morris.

Greg Butkiss: Greg thinks the events are cool, but since he lives very close to where the events take place he is impacted by the noise.

Lori Kibbe: Lori is concerned about the noise, the language used by some of the comedians, and the traffic issues with bringing in 500 people into town for events.

Erica Dorsett: Erica supports Bens events and she wishes Lori Kibbe could elaborate on those issues.

Cynthia Voight: Cynthia agrees with what Lori said and is concerned about the health impact of all these people coming into town for these events.

Michael Paulone: Michael recently moved to Morris and is concerned about the traffic during the events.

Paula Richard: Paula has been to 4 shows and she supports the events.

Deborah Weik: Deborah supports the venue, but she has concerns about traffic and the noise coming from the event.

Joe Stack: Joe is concerned about the noise and the traffic.

Planning and Zoning Commission comments

Robert McIntosh (board member): Bob is also concerned about the traffic, noise, volume, and language used at the events. Bob also said we may have to follow municipal estoppel.

Eileen Narbutas: She said that this has been approved and we should try to move forward.

Veronica Florio: She is concerned about noise

David Wiig: Someone asked if the events are in the proper zone and David said that if there was not a Covid-19 emergency this would not be allowed.

William Ayles Jr.: Bill talked about traffic patterns.

Robert McIntosh: Robert McIntosh made a motion to set a special meeting date with applicant Ben Paletsky on a plan to relieve/mitigate resident concerns related to event volume, lighting, traffic, frequency of events, and comedic content (subject matter), while the temporary permit stands. Veronica Florio seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

- a. Morris Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCAD): Documents will be provided on the Town of Morris Website. Updated POCAD document.**

There was minor discussion about the Town Plan.

5. Minutes: Minutes are uploaded on the Town of Morris Website

- a. August 12th Special Meeting Minutes**
- b. August 19th Public Hearing Minutes**
- c. September 2nd Regular Meeting Minutes**

6. Public Input on non-agenda items

7. Adjourn

Veronica Florio made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 pm. Eileen Narbutas seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Subject : South Farms
Date : Sat, 19 Sep 2020 11:19:00 -0400
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : Adele Terrell <delterrell56@gmail.com>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>
Cc : <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>; Kevin Deroehn <kderoehn@optimum.net>

Dear, Mr Wiig

I personally am in no way affected by anything that goes on at South Farms, as I don't live on that side of town. My reason for writing this letter is to emphasize, that as Chairman of the Planning and Zoning I feel you should refrain from making any comments in regards to what you can and cannot hear from South Farms if you live anywhere in the vicinity! I fell your remark made at this weeks meeting about having you windows open and not finding the noise offensive was totally uncalled for.

I would take that remark as if you were trying to Persuade all of the other members of the board into agreeing with you. After reading the letters than have been sent into the P&Z and speaking with many people it Certainly appears that there is a huge problem with the concerts at South Farms. It's time the Morris residents took their town back from certain controlling people!

Regards,
Adele Terrell

Sent from my iPhone

Subject : Regarding South Farms
Date : Fri, 18 Sep 2020 16:04:00 -0400
Linked to : Aneta Klusak (Jeton Adili)
From : "Klusak, Aneta" <klusaka@brookfieldps.org>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>

Dear Mr. Wiig,

I apologize if you have already received this message from me via the "planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com" e-mail account, but I wanted to make sure my experience from 2 miles away from South Farms was documented for the consideration of the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Thank you,
Aneta Klusak

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Klusak, Aneta** <klusaka@brookfieldps.org>
Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:37 PM
Subject: Regarding South Farms
To: <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>

Hello,

My name is Aneta Klusak and I am a resident of Morris, located at the end of Isaiah Smith Lane and about 2 miles from the South Farms venue. Due to the fields between us, sound is traveling very, very clearly... even if the venue is within legal limits.

I have been in contact with the first selectman and he has let me know that your committee has been meeting. I am forwarding you my latest e-mail to him below. I am also happy to come to one of your Zoom meetings or cooperate with you any way possible to see this resolved. Thank you for your help!

Sincerely,
Aneta Klusak

9/16/2020

Dear Mr. Weik,

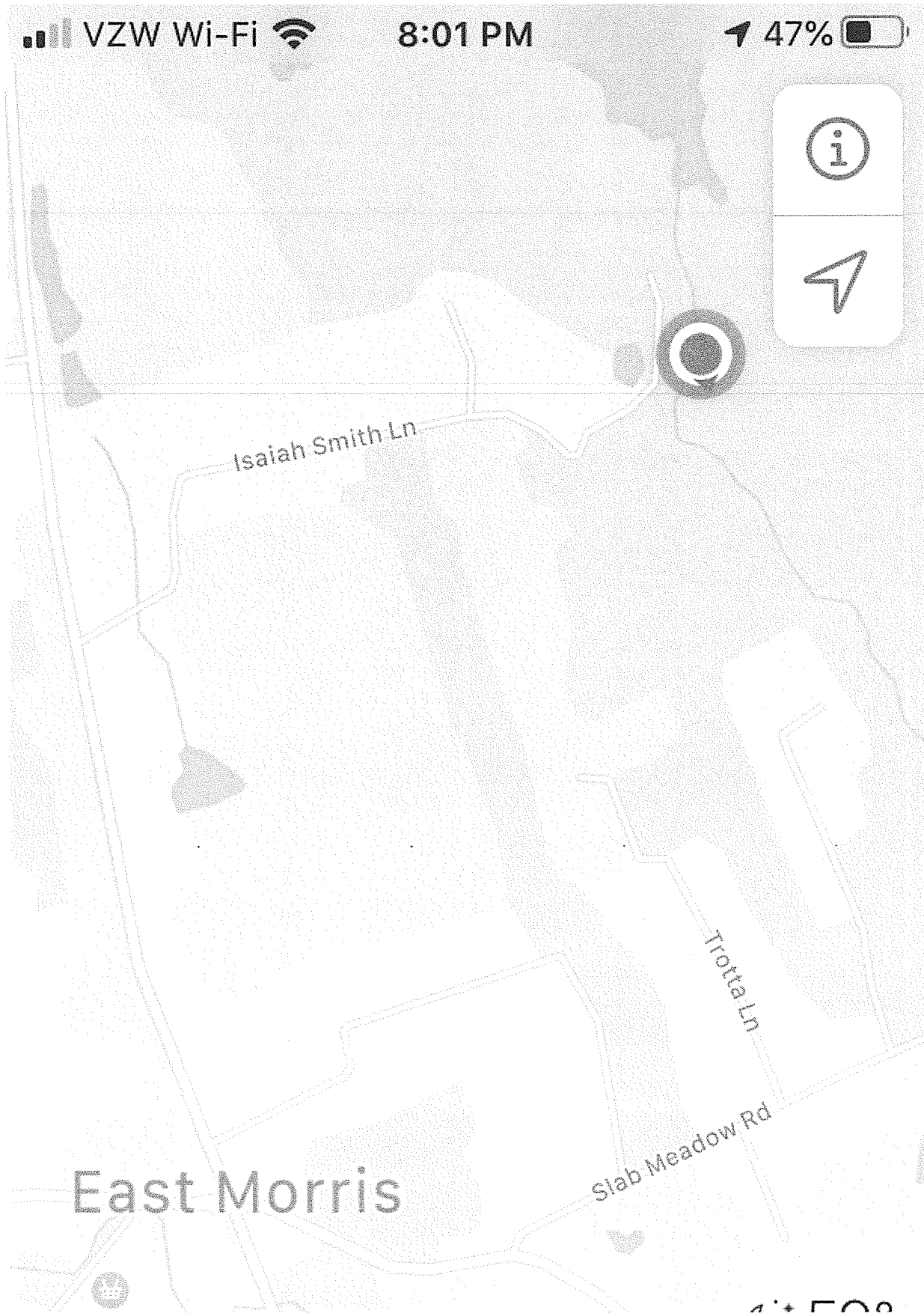
Please find attached videos of different shows recorded from my porch and a map showing where I am. My perception is that the volume has somehow increased. We live in an old house, and I can hear the beat in every room of my home with the windows closed. I can now even hear the crowd cheering, which shows how well the sound travels over the fields between us and the farm even if they are meeting a legal decibel limit. I ask you to please travel the area during a show for the full effect. You're welcome to hear it from inside our home.

I cannot imagine that anyone in Litchfield County - or the rest of the state? - is suddenly being forced to live with a rock stadium in their backyard without a vote or neighborhood approval. My mother has health issues and is distressed by this five nights a week. I teach in Brookfield and come home late, unable to concentrate on lesson planning because of this. The situation simply exceeds the limits of reason. It's an invasive burden on residents who have always had peace here.

We have sympathy for a business trying to continue under pandemic restrictions, but our chief worry is that this is not a temporary measure. What is the town going to do? When exactly do the permits for this expire? And what is the owner's plan for the farm in the future, when restrictions are lifted? Our nerves would be calmed with reassurance that this is not the new normal.

Thank you for your understanding and intervention.

Sincerely,
Aneta Klusak



Subject : New Recording 8
Date : Fri, 18 Sep 2020 22:12:00 -0400
Linked to: Ed (Jeton Adili)
From : Ed <elillis@optonline.net>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>
Cc : Lori Lindenmuth <buddy96@optonline.net>

?Hi Dave. Ed Lillis here. I was asked to send you some recordings from my house. This is what my kids and I are hearing at 177 East street.

On another note I didn't agree with your comment at the zoom meeting Wednesday about harvest moon being good neighbors. They have not stuck to the terms of the PDD you created for them. Trucks overnight with engines running , before and after hours deliveries, wood stacked over the limit. Cutting with the doors open, working on Saturday and Sunday and no enforcement from the zeo. And I have been physically threatened by Peter Davenport for recording violations. You should watch your comments.

Subject : New Recording 11
Date : Fri, 18 Sep 2020 22:13:00 -0400
Linked to: Ed (Jeton Adili)
From : Ed <elillis@optonline.net>
To : <wiiq@optonline.net>

?

Last nights concert from my daughter's room

Subject : Concerts/Meeting Tonight
Date : Mon, 21 Sep 2020 12:00:00 -0400
Linked to : Jeton Adili
From : <hwhite6799@sbcglobal.net>
To : Wiiq@optonline.net <Wiiq@optonline.net>

Hello David,

As a resident of East Morris for over 30 years, I am deeply concerned about the concerts taking place at South Farms. The noise these concerts produce is horrific to a lot of people. I have already voiced a concern about this, but until I read in the Waterbury Rep. who was in charge, I guess my previous email didn't get to the right place. So I am adding it to the bottom of this email.

I understand there is a meeting tonight and hopefully something can be done for the future. I can see there is no recourse for this year and we will have to endure the month of October (or pray for RAIN). **My real concern is for 2021.** There is no reason for this to continue next year. It would be a travesty to the people of East Morris, not to mention the repercussions that will take place if this goes forward in 2021. On one of the websites, it looks like they're already booking for next year. Ben Paletsky is not the only person in this town with rights. Also, what was P&Z thinking when you unleashed this on our town?

Please do not allow this next year while there is still time to revoke anything for 2021..

Also, I had to laugh when the owner of Winvian said how wonderful it was for their business. Well, it wouldn't be so wonderful if the concerts were near them, and it definitely wouldn't be good for business! Another case of "not in my backyard."

You may also want to take into consideration COVID19. With all these concerts and all these people pouring into town, what are they bringing with them, especially if this virus wields its ugly head harder again? Who's checking?

I would appreciate you and your committee taking some of these concerns into consideration at this evening's meeting, the same way Ben Paletsky's have been. Below is my previous correspondence.

Thank you ,
 Helen White
 13 East Morris Lane
 Morris

From: hwhite6799@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 11:33 PM
To: [Tom Weik](mailto:Tom.Weik)
Subject: Farm Concerts

Tom,

I hesitated to send the email below, which I was going to send last night, but then tonight we had whatever was at South Farms sounding like people were shouting out on our road (10:45 pm). Then I decided to look online, and what to my surprise... we have days and days of this to put up with. Their farm is not out in the sticks so that loud microphones, bands etc. don't bother other people. Is there any recourse for the rest of us?

Thank you,
 Helen

Hello Tom,

As I write this, it's difficult to even hear our own TV over the thumping, banging and shouting coming from the farm concert. It's Tuesday night and I thought after 4 days of concerts it would finally be quiet, but no. This is the worst! And that's not to mention last weekend too. How long do we have to put up with this? Maybe they could turn the sound system in a different direction and entertain a different part of town. Do homeowners have any rights, or just the Paletskys? In all the years I've lived on East Morris Lane there hasn't even been a next door neighbor that's played anything as loud as this.

Also, aside from the noise, now there's increased traffic speeding up and down 109.

I'm sorry to take this out on you, but I don't know who to complain to. Can anything be done, or is this what life in Morris is going to look like?

Thank you,
Helen White

Sent from Surface Pro

From: Tom Weik

Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 7:37 AM

To: hwhite6799@sbcglobal.net

Helen,

Thank you for reaching out with these concerns. I have been in contact with Ben Paletsky and the promotor of the concerts with the issues that residents have brought up. I know they are working on the noise issue on a daily basis and hopefully they find the right mix soon. I will contact Ben today and let him know that someone from your area is experiencing the excessive noise as well. I do know that this is not the plan for the future years, but it was to be something to get the venue through this season. I will let you know what I find out.

Thank you,
Tom

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Sent from Windows Mail

Subject : Concerts at South Farm
Date : Sat, 19 Sep 2020 17:33:00 -0400
Linked to : renee normandin (Jeton Adili)
From : renee normandin <reeneenormandin@sbcglobal.net>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>

Good Evening

I would like to address the concerts series/shows happening at South Farms. The noise is unacceptable. First let me say I love that it employs 40+ new folks, esp during this time. I love concerts. I can even appreciate an occasional weekend concert on the Farm but this weekday after weekday after weekday is NOT OKAY. Constant Boom boom boom for hours .I work full time as a registered nurse. I work long hard hours, I come home to relax & I can't. I also have a special needs son, I now have to put a fan on high and/or some other kind of white noise as he can't sleep, not to mention some nights it scares him. Also school has begun again little tough to study, do homework etc. An occasional weekend concert I get it ,this constant every night...it's needs to stop. I have to shut my windows on a beautiful autumn evening, I turn up the television volume, not working. Believe me when I say I grew up in CT and I support and always have, all of CT local farms, small businesses etc I may not have grown up or lived in Morris my whole life but I love it here. There has got to be a solution for this problem Yes it is a problem. Have a great and quiet night, stay safe.

I have sent the above email to Mr Weik as well ,but I left a couple of things out of that email .My street especially my driveway have become the turnaround spot perhaps for those folks who are lost...and lets not forget to mention the half dozen or more who think my road is the new perfect public urinal. Hoping the town addresses and fixes all these issues.Looking forward to hearing from someone.

Regards
 C. Renee Normandin

Subject : Fwd: South Farms Concerts Complaints
Date : Mon, 21 Sep 2020 11:14:00 -0400
Linked to : Jeton Adili
From : Scott Simmons <scottquiethills@yahoo.com>
To : <wiiq@optonline.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Scott Simmons <ssimmons@pepco-ft4.com>
Date: September 21, 2020 at 11:10:48 AM EDT
To: Scott Simmons <scottquiethills@yahoo.com>
Subject: South Farms Concerts Complaints

Hi David,

I'm at 56 Slab meadow Rd (first House on right). We can see the back of the stage and parking area from my deck. The noise is beyond unacceptable. While we may be tolerant of an occasional concert (Like two a month) on a Saturday, the nearly seven day a week progression of events is intolerable.

While I appreciate Ben's position in wanting to find new ways to generate revenue during the pandemic, it shouldn't come at the expense of so many others whose quality of life is impacted by these concerts.

I cannot attend the zoom meeting this evening, but I'd like to stay informed regarding this matter, and join any concerted effort to stop these events. Please enter this email into the record. Can you please tell me how I can attain the meeting minutes from last Wednesday's meeting and this evening's meeting minutes as well?

Thank You,

Scott & Jill Simmons
56 Slab Meadow Rd
Morris CT
860-806-8186
scottquiethills@yahoo.com

09/18/2020

To the Zoning Board of the TOWN OF MORRIS,

I am writing this letter to confirm my disapproval for the "proposed" concert venue on Watertown Road in the TOWN of MORRIS. The Zoning application was not complete and did not, in my opinion, contain factual information about the proposed project.

The COVID 19 Executive order referenced to very clearly in section J states: **No Nonconformity Rights Bestowed.** Any Covered Law that would provide nonconforming use or structure rights to any activity or structure permitted during the state of emergency pursuant to this Section 2 of this Order is suspended.

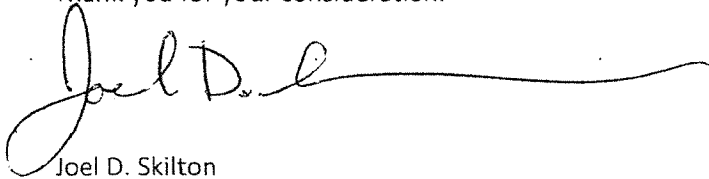
This venue is clearly outside the 1500 foot distance (CD zone) and is shown in the R-60 zone on the application.

The order also is clear that it applies to outdoor dining and is specifically mentioned in Attorney Byrnes letter to you.

While I commend Zoning member Bob McIntosh's opinion on the continued use for the venue. I would insist that a Cease and Desist be placed on the use immediately and no further concerts be held. The Town Administration was clearly aware of this pending use and there was discussion at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on July 7, 2020. The Zoning application was received by ZEO Adili on July 08, 2020.

The Town must follow its' own policies, rules, ordinances and regulations regardless of what 2 individuals say.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel D. Skilton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joel D. Skilton

157 County Road Morris

203 802 8778 cell / 860 567 1349 home

My copy

THE LITCHFIELD COUNTY TIMES

Another part of the White Barn at South Farms includes the "Barnduster" concert series, which features evenings with several local bands. Belle of the Fall, a local electric-folk band, and Switch Factory, a four-piece string band, performed in the Parlor Room on Saturday, April 29. The evening was sold out about a week prior to the show, and the farm alerted potential drop-in's via Facebook and other social media that they were already filled to capacity. The success of the concert series points to a need to be filled in this area, said Paletsky.

"It was fantastic," he said. "The fact that it was sold out means we have to do it again."

People also view

The White Barn @ South Farms |
Morris, Connecticut





THE LITCHFIELD COUNTY TIMES



He said they plan on offering more concert nights, possibly outdoors, in a more “Tanglewood-kind-of-feel” atmosphere, where visitors bring blankets, lawn chairs, and refreshments and hear live music. His reference is to the annual Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Massachusetts, in which musicians perform outdoor concerts.

“We would like to make the farm a destination for local businesses,” Paletsky added.

Paletsky said other plans for South Farm include the installation of a large working kitchen into the main barn. Currently wedding and event caterers must bring their own equipment or the farm must rent it. Paletsky said he hasn’t ruled out the possibility of establishing a stand-alone eatery, or possibly later, hotel lodgings on



Subject : Twilight concerts
Date : Tue, 22 Sep 2020 18:46:00 -0400
Linked to: Ed And Judy (Jeton Adili)
From : Ed And Judy <eddorsett@optonline.net>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>

David, I am so supportive of what Ben has done for the citizens of Morris and the general public during this time of the COVID-19. It is a bright spot...in a time when there aren't many...rather concerts than housing developments! Judy Dorsett

Sent from my iPad

Subject : Joe stack rt 63
Date : Tue, 22 Sep 2020 18:48:00 -0400
Linked to : demodogman (Jeton Adili)
From : demodogman <demodogman@gmail.com>
To : <Wiig@optonline.net>

Hey Dave, can you tell me when the next meeting is? Also is it possible we can have a meeting at the school gym , with masks and social distancing. I think that would help everyone if it was in person. And on a side note, The state or eversorce cut out a whole line of brush and tree branches across the street from my house today. Now the venue is much more open to my property. Regardless of the noise , now anyone in the feild is basicly looking in my yard. It doesn't seem right. Its now kinda a privacy issue also . Before the trees and bushes blocked much of the visual. Dont get me wrong im not saying it was done by ben or anything by the town. It just adds to the problem. Joe. Ps i talked to Dan Conron , hes doing good and says hi

Sent from my Sprint Phone.

Subject : South farms
Date : Tue, 22 Sep 2020 22:30:00 -0400
Linked to : anna carfield (Jeton Adili)
From : anna carfield <annacarfield@gmail.com>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>

To whom it may concern...I am without a doubt in support of the concerts/comedy shows at South Farms and know for a fact that they are bringing business to the area because I have met multiple people who have come to town just to see their favorite act...we should be embracing this for the treasure it is instead of looking for any negativity...I know one lady compared it to limerock...well limerock adds to their community and brings people from all over the country including many business people and even celebrities who then settle in the area...and limerock is the sound of racing cars not beautiful music...FYI the home values in the Salisbury are higher than the home values in Morris so obviously that attraction hasn't hurt real estate... I work in the service industry and I have yet to hear one remotely negative comment...locals as well as people from other areas are beyond supportive ...it is so disappointing that anyone would find negativity in this very positive venture and to be quite honest I'm jealous of the people that get to hear the music
Please don't blow this for our town...

Anna Carfield

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Subject : Letter of Support, South Farms Concerts
Date : Tue, 22 Sep 2020 21:53:00 -0400
Linked to: Georgia LoPresti Meckes (Jeton Adili)
From : Georgia LoPresti Meckes <georgialoprestimeckes@gmail.com>
To : planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : 1stselectman@townofmorris.com <1stselectman@townofmorris.com>; Ben Paletsky <bpaletsky@yahoo.com>; Georgia LoPresti Meckes <georgia.meckes@gmail.com>; wiiq@optonline.net <wiiq@optonline.net>

Honorable Board and Selectmen,

I would like to submit a letter of support for the Concerts and Comedy at South Farms.

As a new community member of East Morris, with children at WAMOGO and James Morris elementary, I have enjoyed these concerts and think they are terrific! They have provided a nearby, respite for social time & cultural enjoyment- right in our neighborhood. I've had the pleasure and opportunity to see musical and comedy acts I never would have, otherwise. I also felt comfortable bringing both of my children to their "first concerts" in an environment that is safe and welcoming.

I also think that it's been a brilliant way for this third-generation business to pivot during unprecedented times.

The noise has not made any negative impact on my family's livelihood and we live adjacent to the farm at the intersection of rt 63 and 109. In fact, if we hear much at all, we open our windows- as it helps us fall asleep.

I support the concerts and hope they stay!

Respectfully,

Georgia LoPresti Meckes

--

Georgia LoPresti Meckes

Subject : Concerts at South Farm
Date : Tue, 22 Sep 2020 19:49:00 -0400
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : Gerri Kenniston <gkenniston@yahoo.com>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>; <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : <1stselectman@townofmorris.com>

I am emailing you to send my support to Ben Paletsky for his tremendous efforts to bring live music to Morris. Ben has worked very hard to make this happen, following all the required protocols.

I have attended a concert and have tickets for two more. It was an absolute success and enjoyable- very much needed in this time of COVID.

And very much needed for the town of Morris!

Thank you,

Gerri Kenniston

Sent from my iPhone

Subject : RE: re[2]: Posting on town site
Date : Tue, 22 Sep 2020 15:02:00 -0400
Linked to : lindenmuthlori (Jeton Adili)
From : lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
To : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>
Cc : Jeton Adili <AdiliJeton@yahoo.com>; Planning & Zoning
 <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>; <The427king@yahoo.com>

Dear all commmissioners

Last nights meeting was very enlightening.

Bens plan to continue concerts at South farms was very clear despite no improvement to the volume coming from these professional bands. As a matter of fact, they have been louder than ever. He "hopes to have solutions in the spring".

Now that you are aware of his plans and your mistakes giving him a list of considerations is something the board needs to do when he comes back and fills out an appropriate application properly, Not now.

We are in week two with you and he gave his answer to the volume.

There is nothing that can be done about that list you came up with, not Now!!

I urge you all to review his current plans for the current bussines, not this new one. I urge you to review the zoning regulations for his property and to cease any further conditions and implement a Ciest and Desist order immediately. Ben just told you his plan and others have told you he is booking out until The Spring 2021.

This commissions responsibly is to this entire community not just South Farms for every week you delay this his plans are in quick motion. Again you have been notified by other in this community he has been planning this for a couple of years.

He can appeal the C&D and still keep his concerts going with no hardship.

The longer you wait the more he plans.

In the meantime , I am asking this commssiion to drive around and drive through every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and take notes and make your own observations, from Now until they hopefully end in OCT. He never said they were ending in Oct, did he? What we need is the process for the future to be upheld!

Thank you,
 Lori Kibbe
 860 671 0108

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "David R. Wiig" <wiig@optonline.net>
 Date: 9/21/20 6:31 PM (GMT-05:00)
 To: lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
 Cc: Jeton Adili <AdiliJeton@yahoo.com>, Planning & Zoning
 <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
 Subject: re[2]: Posting on town site

Lori

Efforts will be made to make it clear that you and Chuck are not the only ones commenting. Regardless, it was Kevin DeRoehn who was the first to ask questions. I will read other e-mails into the record and try to get them posted on the town website.

Dave

----- Original Message -----

From: lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>

To: "David R. Wiig" <wiig@optonline.net>

Date: Mon, 21 Sep 2020 14:57:05 -0400

Subject: re: Posting on town site

Thats unfortunate!

I am asking that all communications be listed. Or take mine down than!!!

If not today, than tomorrow.

This is not an issue between just Lori and Ben!

Thank you,

Lori

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "David R. Wiig" <wiig@optonline.net>

Date: 9/21/20 2:47 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>

Cc: Jeton Adili <AdiliJeton@yahoo.com>, Planning & Zoning
<planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>

Subject: re: Posting on town site

Lori

That was what was available when the agenda was posted. I have shared the others with the board. I will try to get them loaded to the website; however, I had asked that Ben's message be posted and it was not done.

Dave

----- Original Message -----

From: lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
To: "David R. Wiig" <wiig@optonline.net>
Date: Mon, 21 Sep 2020 11:28:07 -0400
Subject: Posting on town site

David,

Can you explain to me why only my emails are posted and noone else but one from CHUCK?

I know other people have reached out to you.

Lori Lindenmuth

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Subject : South Farms Concert series
Date : Tue, 22 Sep 2020 18:58:00 -0400
Linked to: Paula Rischard (Jeton Adili)
From : Paula Rischard <kknocknees@yahoo.com>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>

The South Farms concert series has done so much good for this community and I hope it can continue on some level.

Although I am sensitive to the opinions of those who have concerns about noise, traffic, safety, etc., I have every confidence that Ben Paletsky and his team will be able to accomplish whatever modifications necessary to alleviate these obstacles.

Please consider all who benefit from this venue. It has truly put Morris æœon the map.æ

Paula Rischard

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Subject : FW: Special meeting.
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 08:10:00 -0400
Linked to : Planning & Zoning (Jeton Adili)
From : "Planning & Zoning" <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
To : <dave.wiig@docuware.com>; <wiig@optonline.net>

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed And Judy [<mailto:eddorsett@optonline.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:51 PM
To: planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com
Subject: Special meeting.

Just watched the special meeting regarding the concerts at South Farms. I would guess that we live around a mile from the stage. Usually we can hear nothing. When we have heard sound it was very faint and could not hear it indoors. Went to one concert and was very impressed with all of the protocols regarding Covid. This is a unique time. I fully support what Ben is doing. I would hate to see the South Farm property end up as a subdivision or mall. Seems to me this is a positive for an economy that needs all the help it can get. I would also like to compliment the Board for a good Zoom meeting. Ed Dorsett. 111 South Street. Morris.

Sent from my iPad

Subject : FW: South Farms Concerts
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 08:10:00 -0400
Linked to : Planning & Zoning (Jeton Adili)
From : "Planning & Zoning" <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
To : <dave.wiig@docuware.com>; <wiig@optonline.net>

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From: Maureen Bellmay [<mailto:mbellmay@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 8:55 PM

To: planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com

Subject: South Farms Concerts

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Hello-

Â

Todd and I just wanted you to know that we have been enjoying the concerts just over the hill. Weâ€™ve been to 4 so far and have 2 more scheduled. All of our kids have gone to some as well. We think what Ben has created is a great thing for the town and community. We understand some of the concerns from those living in closer proximity. We can hear it from our house too sometimes but actually enjoy it. As there are just a few more weeks left of their season, we hope that they will be allowed to continue. We suggest lowering the volume to appease those who are disturbed by it, and also reassuring them that if in the future they plan to continue limit the events to weekends, or if during the week a smaller, quieter atmosphere and not so frequent.Â

Â

Sincerely,

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Maureen & Todd Bellmay

Subject : Thankful and supportive of South Farms Concerts
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 11:29:00 -0400
Linked to : Jeton Adili
From : Dawn F <elephantsweeper@optonline.net>
To : <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>; <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>;
<wiiig@optonline.net>
Cc : <bpaletsky@yahoo.com>

I am writing this note in thanks and support of the South Farms concerts. It is amazing to me that we have such a terrific venue for live events right here in our beautiful town.

We have purchased tickets for several concerts and have enjoyed the music, the food, and the ability to safely attend a concert.

The events are well organized and the safety health checks are efficient and helpful. Most importantly these events give us a chance to feel less isolated and also support our local vendors AND performers which is critical to helping our economy survive this terrible pandemic.

I am so grateful to South Farms and the Town of Morris for supporting these terrific concerts and look forward to attending them for decades to come.

With gratitude,

Dawn Fiddler

Sent from my iPhone

Subject : South Farms Concert Series
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 13:53:00 -0400
Linked to : Jeton Adili
From : Jan Sjogren <jan@thebarnmorris.com>
To : <wiiq@optonline.net>; <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>;
 <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : Ben Paletsky <bpaletsky@southfarms.org>

Tom and Tony

I've been watching the issues as they relate to the concert series at South Farms unfold from the sidelines, choosing not to get involved in opinions and commentary on social media. Sharing your views on anything and everything in Morris and the greater community becomes increasingly an issue when you are a business owner in Morris as you always risk upsetting someone. I mean I even have one TV on with Fox and the other with CNN to stay as apolitical as possible. With that said, I do feel compelled both as a benefiting business owner with 2 staff residing in Morris and all staff (12) in Litchfield county, as well as a matter of principle to share with you my views and insight on this matter.

The shows across the street has allowed the Barn to bring up our revenues almost back to pre pandemic levels and hence has been a savior for the ongoing viability of the restaurant. So that's a 55% increase in revenues for this short period. I say almost as on the days when there isn't a show, our revenues dip to about 35% compared to a show day which as of right now accounts for a slight loss, maybe a break even. This extra revenue is so important to us I'm not sure what will happen when the triple whammy hits at the end of October; no more shows, flu season and no more outdoor seating. It's likely this extra revenue has bought us some time into the winter but I'm still doubtful we'll make it. So for, in part, self preserving reasons, I am in full support of the concert series. Further, a lot of the commentary around it has been focused on the pandemic and related safety protocols and concerns. I have been to a couple of shows myself as well as working with the crew serving delivered food etc and I don't think I've seen any other venue or location, from the grocery store to Home Depot or your average restaurant where the safety procedures are as impeccable and the actual physical distancing both at the concession stands and on the field are likely safer than those at the locations mentioned above. I'm not going to challenge people complaining about the noise as other locations may hear more, but I for one, cannot hear anything from the show stand that is situated approximately 300 yards south of the barn. Not once.

With the above I would like to express my explicit support for the continuation of the concert series and I would be happy to further support this notion as necessary or useful for the town to take action needed.

Kind regards

Jan

Subject : South Farms
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 14:09:00 -0400
Linked to : Jeton Adili
From : Jessy Dorsett <jessydorsett@gmail.com>
To : 1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>;
planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>;
wiig@optonline.net <wiig@optonline.net>
Cc : Benjamin Paletsky <bpaletsky@yahoo.com>

Good afternoon,

I was born and raised in Morris, and I have to say it's so nice to see on social media and in Rolling Stone Magazine that the wonderful little town I grew up in has been placed on the map thanks to the amazing efforts of South Farms. I know Ben personally and know his mission has always been community and how to bring others together. These concerts have done just that and I fully support what he is doing.

In Kindness

Jessy Dorsett

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In Kindness,

Â Â Â Â Â Jessy Dorsett

Subject : South Farms Such an Asset
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 17:08:00 -0400
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : Jodiann Tenney <jodi10e@yahoo.com>
To : stselectman@townofmorrisct.com <stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; wiiig@optonline.net <wiiig@optonline.net>; planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : bpaletsky@southfarms.org <bpaletsky@southfarms.org>

Dear Morris Officials:

My family lives in Litchfield and we have been frequent attendees at South Farms events. Most recently, we attended the comedy show which was part of the outdoor concert series. It was a wonderful night and my husband and I remarked on how awesome it was to have such famous comedians in our "own back yard."

South Farms is such a model of how creativity and hard work can keep businesses in our small, rural communities alive. South Farms is a tremendous asset to residents of all the surrounding towns, including Morris. And by putting Morris on the map, they are drawing in additional business to surrounding towns.

We have heard of some complaints and have been disheartened to hear them. We hope that the town commissions will continue to encourage all that South Farms is doing as they provide much needed social opportunities for the people. Knowing the Paletsky family, they will continue to work with the community to problem solve and find solutions to any existing complaints.

Sincerely,
Jodi and John Tenney
Town of Litchfield

Subject : South Farms
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 13:00:00 -0400
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : John Murray <waterburyobserver@gmail.com>
To : <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; <wiig@optonline.net>;
 <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : <bpaletsky@southfarms.org>

Good Afternoon

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Â Â I am writing today to express my full support for the Twilight Concerts Series currently being staged on the upper meadow of South Farms. What Ben Paletsky has created at South Farms during the past decade â€” a stunningly gorgeous wedding venue, a herd of grass-fed Belted Galloway cattle, farmerâ€™s markets, and weekly community gatherings in the summer â€” is an extraordinary accomplishment.

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Â Iâ€™ve had a front row seat to it all.

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Â Â I have lived at 26 Watertown Road in Morris for the past 22 years, and finally bought the house from Julie Ajazi last week. Morris is my home, a sanctuary from my journalism work in Waterbury, and I suspect my last breath on Earth will be taken in this community. My property is surrounded by South Farms on three sides, and when I stand in my yard I have a direct view of the concert venue.

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Â Â During performances I can clearly hear the music being played by the bands, but more than the drums and electric guitars, I hear the sounds of life, and that gives me hope. We are in the middle of an historic pandemic that has impacted the entire world, and all of us, every single resident in Morris, has felt an impact from COVID-19. Maybe now weâ€™re working from home or helping our kids with homework, maybe our business was shut for months, or weâ€™re on the frontlines of healthcare trying to save lives in a hospital or nursing home.

Â

Â Â Ben Paletsky and South Farms did not escape a COVID-19 punch in the face. Ben lost dozens of weddings and events, money that time and effort will not replace. In a crisis itâ€™s the nimble and creative that will survive, and Ben used those skills to create the Twilight Concert Series that has brought music and joy to thousands of people - and jobs - in these dark and uncertain times. The pandemic is forecast to be with us for another 12 months and itâ€™s not out of the realm of possibilities that South Farms loses another entire wedding season in 2021. It wasnâ€™t that long ago that when a farmer got his tractor stuck in the mud, the neighbors helped him pull it out. Times have changed.

Â

Â Â Ben Paletsky has been a terrific neighbor in Morris and he deserves community support as he tries to navigate South Farms through the choppy waters of the pandemic.

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Â Â It might be helpful to get a big-picture perspective before zeroing in on noise complaints. The Twilight Concert Series isnâ€™t simply an agenda item for the Morris Planning and Zoning Commission, what Ben has created with his socially distanced outdoor concert venue is a really big deal. South Farms has received local, state and national attention, and has been mentioned in Rolling Stone Magazine. Ben has created the most innovative music venue on the East Coast and this should be celebrated. I am very proud of his accomplishment and admire his commitment to Morris, his dedication to preserving open space, and the continued five-generation legacy of the Paletsky Family in this town.

Â

Â Â Some Morris residents are complaining that they moved to town for the peace and quiet of country living and that music from the Twilight Concert Series is negatively impacting their quality of life. Is the noise real? Of course it is. And so is the sound of a gun-shots fired every afternoon from a resident on Higbie Road, and the roar of lawn mowers and chainsaws before 8 am.

Â

Â Â Iâ€™ve listened to a few of my neighbors complain about the music coming from South Farms the past six weeks and believe it is important to acknowledge their concerns, but it is also important to remind anyone living directly on Route 63 that they do not live in a quiet zone. We might wish for nothing but the sounds of chirping crickets, the cawing of crows, and the gurgle of rushing water from East Morris Brook as it flows through town. But that is not reality. The rumble of motorcycles on Route 63 vibrates our homes, and the half-mile from the intersection with Route 109 heading towards Watertown is a drag strip 18 hours a day. We are inundated with man-made sound all day, every day, and we adjust and learn to live with it.

Â

Â Â Ben has followed all local and state laws in creating an innovative and game-changing venue for South Farms, and the concerts are always over at a reasonable time (approximately Â 9:30 pm). As the closest neighbor to South Farms in Morris I have nothing but admiration for what he has created and fully support his innovative effort to keep his business afloat; an effort that has rippled across the music industry, and sent some beautiful music across the meadows, over a stone wall, and into my ears.

Â

Â By working together, we can help Ben Paletsky pull South Farms out of the pandemic ditch, so he can continue to provide a hub for community life in Morris. This is what neighbors used to do, and we can do it again. Thank you.

Â

Best wishes,
John Murray
26 Watertown Road
Morris, CT

Subject : FW: Concerts at South Farms
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 08:10:00 -0400
Linked to : Planning & Zoning (Jeton Adili)
From : "Planning & Zoning" <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
To : <dave.wiig@docuware.com>; <wiig@optonline.net>

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Harrison [<mailto:realtorlmh@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 7:21 PM
To: Planning & Zoning
Subject: Concerts at South Farms

Dear David and Commissions Members,

I am writing to express my concern for the concerts at South Farms. Finally we have something great happening in Morris and once again the nay sayers are trying to squelch it. As a recent member Morris Planning and Zoning I remember when Mr. Paletsky came in to speak with us about all the possibilities that might happen at his Farm and I distinctively remember concerts being one of them.

From what I understand about the concerts, Mr. Paletsky is doing everything he can to keep the sound in check and is working with sound engineers, daily, to improve it.

I support these concerts and the revenue itâ€™s bringing to all of the businesses in town. I hope the Planning and Zoning commission will not allow themselves to be bullied by the same people who always find something to complain about.

Respectfully,

Lisa M Harrison

Subject : South Farms Events
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 13:14:00 -0400
Linked to : Jeton Adili
From : Matt Halpern <mattshalpern@gmail.com>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>
Cc : <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>; Ben Paletsky <bpaletsky@yahoo.com>

Dear Mr. Wiig,

I recently attended a concert at South Farms and it was excellent. Lots of social distancing, great food and drink, and a wonderful show. Everyone there appeared to love the opportunity to feel normal for a couple of hours during the midst of the COVID pandemic, myself included. I am planning on coming to Morris (and bringing my wallet) more often for other events.

I know that there have been several vocal complaints about the noise, but I trust Ben Paletsky can lower the decibel levels to a reasonable and agreeable level as he fine tunes the concert logistics. I applaud him for doing such a wonderful job in getting these culturally and economically needed events off the ground so quickly and so well.

Sincerely,

Matt Halpern

Subject : Support for Concert Series in Morris
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 11:14:00 -0400
Linked to : Jeton Adili
From : Matt Man <yahtzdog@hotmail.com>
To : 1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; wiiig@optonline.net <wiiig@optonline.net>; planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : Ben Paletsky <bpaletsky@southfarms.org>

To Whom This May Concern -

It is my privilege to compose this note to you regarding the concert series at S. Farms. I am a strong advocate for live music. In a time of dread and despair, the outdoor concerts have provided my friends, family and community an avenue for hope and vision of better days. I have attended a few concerts and have been pleasantly surprised by how well the venue organizers considered the health and safety of guests as well as employees. The concerts seem to benefit others in the community as well by providing secure employment, extending economic growth into the surrounding businesses and leaving a sense of optimism that hasn't been seen since the pandemic's start. I thank Mr. Ben Paletsky for having the courage and foresight to run a successful venue while also doing the best he can to consider others' positions. I recognize not everyone may be in favor of such a venue, but realizing how the pros outweigh the cons is also something I hope you will consider.

In short, I support this concert series and thank the town of Morris along with Mr. Paletsky for offering a bit of light in an otherwise dark time.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Saccoman
207 West Street
Goshen, CT 06756
860-387-5768

Nathaniel B. Worden
9 East Litchfield Road
Litchfield, CT 06759
Cell: (347) 327-3407
nworden@gmail.com

September 23, 2020

Tom Weik
First Selectman's Office
3 East Street
Morris, CT 06763

Dear Mr. Weik,

I am writing to express my support for Ben Paletsky and his family and employees at South Farms in light of the recent controversy over their groundbreaking concert series on the farm. I am a Litchfield resident, but as you know, our communities and local economies are closely intertwined. Also, my wife, Sarah Worden, works with Ben at South Farms, and as a local insurance broker with Ericson Insurance Advisors in Washington, I have a valued business relationship at stake here as well.

But I am not writing this letter to protect my wife, my immediate business interests, or my long friendship with Ben. I am writing this letter out of a deeply held conviction that if the Town of Morris takes action to close down South Farms' concert series venture, that will prove to be a tragic mistake that will harm the long-term interests of our communities. It would be a move that we will all come to regret, and I urge you and your fellow public servants to resist any shortsighted pressure to take such action.

To be clear, I understand and respect the objections voiced by some of your constituents in opposition to what South Farms is doing—particularly those whose lives have been disrupted by sounds from the concerts. We all sympathize with people that are bothered by this, but South Farms is not the only source of noise that bothers neighbors in this community. We routinely hear things like gunfire, fireworks and loud music from neighbors all over Litchfield County, but we find a way to cooperate and coexist without putting undue limits on the freedoms our neighbors enjoy to pursue their interests.

I'm confident that we can find a solution for those bothered by the sound of live entertainment at South Farms, but this will take some time and a spirit of cooperation. In the meantime, we are in the midst of a global pandemic, and businesses everywhere are struggling to adjust and find a safe way to continue operating and sustaining themselves. We all need to work together to figure this out and get through this, and that may well require some of our citizens to make sacrifices and put the best interests of their community ahead of their own.

For its part, South Farms has put its future on the line to embark on an extraordinary entrepreneurial venture that is garnering national attention in the live entertainment industry, which has been largely

shut down by the pandemic. This is an exciting opportunity that our community must seize on and embrace as we seek a brighter and more prosperous future for our children. Pursuing this opportunity has put South Farms on the front lines of the economic recovery in this pandemic. Nobody at South Farms is profiting in any significant way from this venture, but its entire team is working around the clock, pouring their hearts and souls into the creation of a new center of arts and culture right here in Morris that has the potential to enrich this community in profound ways for generations to come.

We're all familiar with the great centers of arts and culture that exist all across America, like Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, MA or the Bethel Woods Center For Arts in Bethel, NY (the original site of Woodstock). What if the residents in those communities had prevented these organizations from flourishing out of shortsighted concerns about noise, visitors and change? Those regions would have deprived themselves of major engines of economic and cultural vitality that have nourished local businesses, empowered school systems and raised property values. Other, more forward-thinking communities would have filled that void instead. We should not make that mistake here.

For his part, Ben Paletsky and his family have risked their assets to preserve their beautiful lands and keep their family farm intact. When I first met Ben, he had a dilapidated barn, a few cows and acres of open land sitting idle that developers wanted to carve up and sell off for a quick buck. He also had a vision that, at the time, seemed well-intentioned but far-fetched. Years later, his vision—against all odds—has become a reality. The barn has been renovated into a world-class events venue that is the crowned jewel of Morris and the toast of Connecticut and beyond.

The pandemic crisis has put everything Ben and his team have achieved at risk, but rather than close their eyes and hope for the best, they have instead made the gutsy call to once again try something new—and it's working! While a vocal minority of locals have complained loudly about the outdoor concerts, many more residents have embraced what South Farms is doing. They've attended the concerts and experienced the thrill of seeing world-renowned artists performing right here in Morris amid the stunning backdrop of an authentic, well-preserved New England farm.

As local residents—business professionals, parents, teachers, public servants, non-profits—we owe it to ourselves and future generations to resist the temptation to listen to shortsighted fears, negativity and cynicism. We must not stand in the way of South Farms. We must embrace it. We must encourage it, and we must work together with the can-do spirit of Americans to help it succeed and build a better future.

Please support South Farms and give them the time and space to work with their neighbors to make this work for everyone. Do not foreclose on this opportunity. Do not stand in the way of progress.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathaniel B. Worden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nathaniel B. Worden

Subject : South Farms' Concerts
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 11:30:00 -0400
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : Paula Halpern <mattpaulah@optonline.net>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>
Cc : <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>; Ben Paletsky
<bpaletsky@yahoo.com>

Dear Mr. Wiig,

I just wanted to show my support for the South Farms' concerts. I attended one a few weeks ago and thought it was amazing. To create such a special atmosphere during these crazy times is what really sets it apart. Ben Paletsky is diligently working to lessen the neighborhood noise for the future. The fact that this also employs so many residents is just an added plus. Although I am not a resident, I've been coming to Morris since 1967 and this is one of the best things that I've seen come to this town.

Thank you,
Paula Halpern

Subject : Re: Concerts at South Farm
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 19:56:00 -0400
Linked to: renee normandin (Jeton Adili)
From : renee normandin <reeneenormandin@sbcglobal.net>
To : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>

Sept 23, 2020
 Good evening Mr Wiig

I hope this email finds you & yours safe & well. I unfortunately could not attend Mondays Sept 21, 2020 Special P&Z meeting concerning the Concerts & shows happening at South Farms. I was however able to view the video of this meeting last night. I want to thank you for sharing my email and entering it into the record .I do have a couple of questions for you. Will there be another meeting for public commentsâ€|where the residents are actually allowed to speak & ask questions? Also where and how can I obtain & view current & all copies of South Farms (Benâ€™s) original plans and approvals?

With those questions aside, I would also like to comment on Bens comments on decibel levels, weather conditionâ€™s etc. While I am no expert on all those topics I am aware that they affect sound/noise travel etc. However I would like to mention that yes I hear motorcycles going up and down RT 109 & 63 often. I enjoy motorcycles just like I enjoy a good concertâ€|the difference is the motorcycles roar on by and then are gone, they do not stop in my front yard and rev their engines for 5 hours. Airplanes & helicopters are not taking off and landing nor are they circling a half a mile above my house for hours. Ben may simply be trying to make a point but really there is no comparison here. I look forward to hearing from you have a good night.

Regards
 C. Renee Normandin

On Sunday, September 20, 2020, 11:55:54 AM EDT, David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net> wrote:

Renee

Thank you for your information. This has been shared with the zoning board. We are meeting again on Monday to see if we can dial back the operation.

Dave

----- Original Message -----

FROM: renee normandin <reeneenormandin@sbcglobal.net>
 TO: wiig@optonline.net
 DATE: Sat, 19 Sep 2020 21:33:26 +0000 (UTC)

SUBJECT: Concerts at South Farm

Good Evening

I would like to address the concerts series/shows happening at South Farms. The noise is unacceptable. First let me say I love that it employs 40+ new folks, esp during this time. I love concerts. I can even appreciate an occasional weekend concert on the Farm but this weekday after weekday is NOT OKAY. Constant Boom boom boom for hours .I work full time as a registered nurse. I work long hard hours, I come home to relax & I can't sleep. I also have a special needs son, I now have to put a fan on high and/or some other kind of white noise as he can't sleep, not to mention some nights it scares him. Also school has begun againâ€|little tough to study, do homework etc. An occasional weekend concert I get it ,this constant every

night...it's needs to stop. I have to shut my windows on a beautiful autumn evening, I turn up the television volume, not working. Believe me when I say I grew up in CT and I support and always have, all of CT local farms, small businesses, etc, I may not have grown up or lived in Morris my whole life but I love it here. There has got to be a solution for this problem! Yes it is a problem. Have a great and quiet night, stay safe.

I have sent the above email to Mr Weik as well ,but I left a couple of things out of that email .My street especially my driveway have become the turnaround spot perhaps for those folks who are lost...and lets not forget to mention the half dozen or more who think my road is the new perfect public urinal. Hoping the town addresses and fixes all these issues.Looking forward to hearing from someone.

Regards
C. Renee Normandin

Subject : South Farms â€” Concerts
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 14:44:00 -0400
Linked to: eBay
From : Rhea Wasserman <eyetaught@yahoo.com>
To : <wiig@optonline.net>
Cc : <firstselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>; Ben Paletsky <bpaletsky@yahoo.com>

?Dear Mr. Wiig,

I would like to add my comments of support regarding the concerts at South Farms. The pandemic is causing so many problems to businesses and people's "sanity". I grew up in Morris and love the area. It is one of the most beautiful parts of our country. These concerts are giving people a much needed diversion ... a source of entertainment in a safe environment while supplying about 70 jobs when revenue is down for many. Ben Paletsky has been doing more than his share to keep the area vibrant. Residents have to do their part as well - to be kind, helpful, and tolerant always - but especially during this crazy time in the world!

Thank you.

Rhea Wasserman

Sent from my iPad

Subject : South Farms Concert Series
Date : Wed, 23 Sep 2020 13:27:00 -0400
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : "Whipple, Robert" <Robert.Whipple@lanxess.com>
To : 1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; wiiq@optonline.net <wiiq@optonline.net>; planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : bpaletsky@southfarms.org <bpaletsky@southfarms.org>

I am writing to you in support of the South Farms Concert series happening in Morris, CT. In these times business owners have to be creative in order to survive and put food on their table. Ben has done exactly that by bringing these great concerts to our town. This is a great outlet for Morris residents as well as others especially during these stressful times. Listening to music helps reduce stress according to many studies. It can help relieve a person from anxiety, depression and other emotional and mental problems. Music is also capable of eliminating physical exhaustion as it allows the body and mind to relax. I believe we could all benefit from this during these difficult times. The venue is run very safe and efficiently and the shows are usually done by 10:00 PM. I have heard nothing but great things from those that have attended especially from quite a few Morris residents. I believe this is great strategy to strengthen our town's economies and provide a better way of life to people while maintaining the distinctive rural character of the farm. Heck, if it was me that owned that property I would have sold to a developer and moved to New Hampshire.

Great job Ben and your South Farms team!!!!

Best Regards,
Robert Whipple

 LANXESS Solutions US Inc.
 Head of Customer Service NA PLA
 2 Armstrong Road
 Shelton, CT 06484
 USA

Phone : (203) 573-3577
 Fax : (203) 208-3990
 Mobile : (203) 558-5192
 Email : robert.whipple@lanxess.com

<http://www.lanxess.com>

Subject : South Farms Concert Series
Date : Thu, 24 Sep 2020 10:49:00 -0400
Linked to: Jim Davenport (Jeton Adili)
From : Jim Davenport <jim@harvestmoontimberframe.com>
To : David Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>
Cc : Ben Paletsky <bpaletsky@southfarms.org>

David:

I am writing today in support of what Ben Paletsky is doing over at South Farms; in particular the concert series. South Farms is my adjacent neighbor to the East and I am delighted to have a neighbor with the perseverance & vision that Ben has.

The evolution of what has happened over there in the past several years has been extraordinary. Ben's development has been tasteful, out of the box at times, but in my opinion a wonderful addition to Morris.

I have attended many events over at South Farms over the years and I leave feeling grateful that we have a venue such as this so close to where we live. For myself it makes having a night out possible.

I appreciate the time
Jim

--

Jim Davenport Jr.
Harvest Moon Timber Frame
198 East Street
Morris, CT 06763
1-800-262-0004 Company Main
1-860-361-6665 Office
1-203-994-0517 cell
1-860-631-1003 fax
www.harvestmoontimberframe.com

Town of Morris Planning and Zoning Committee
Morris Town Hall
Morris, CT
9/23/20

I am writing this letter in support of South Farms Music Venue, as I feel as a Morris Town resident for the past 20 years, this is a wonderful and worthwhile endeavor which positively impacts and supports our local economy in an appropriate socially distanced platform, of which also brings joy to all who attend, townspeople and tourists.

These are challenging times, and I believe we as neighbors need to unite in supporting one another and our townspeople, to help enrich the lives and survival of Morris Businesses, especially those which help to bring revenue to our small Town.

I also believe during this unprecedented time, as society struggles through a global pandemic and economic and social unrest, South Farms Music Venue is exactly what this town needs, a safe, healthy, entertainment venue where we can spend a few hours during any given evening and just let go and relax comfortably.

Lastly, I would like to say I firmly believe we should be praising and supporting South Farms in this agritourism endeavor, of which helps to preserve and support historic farms and open spaces in our Town within Litchfield County.

Stay healthy and stay safe,

Respectfully,

Ralph Louis Davila
179 Bantam Lake Road
Morris, CT 06763
860-307-7484

Subject :
Date : Thu, 24 Sep 2020 13:08:00 -0400
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : Dylan Hovey <townesfarmllc@gmail.com>
To : <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>; <wiig@optonline.net>;
<1stselectman@townofmorris.com>; <bpaletsky@yahoo.com>

Dave Wiig,

I am writing to you on behalf of my family and myself. It's come to my attention that South Farms has been under scrutiny over the past few months regarding their summer program. Being a business owner in this town as well, I saw the impact that covid had on our already very small community. Im sure a lot of us can agree when I say that coming up with new and creative ideas to attract business is not as easy as it seems. We are fortunate to have such a support system with our residents and even from those in surrounding towns. It's very sad to hear that our own community is pushing for the failure of something that's brought us together during this challenging time. Ben Paletsky was able to put this together and not only make it enjoyable but lucrative for him and other businesses in Town and out of town. I am thankful that Ben was able to tackle the first step to opening back up and creating a way for the town to get back to normal.

Best wishes
Dylan Hovey at Townes Farm LLC.

Subject : South farms
Date : Thu, 24 Sep 2020 09:00:00 -0400
Linked to: demodogman (Jeton Adili)
From : demodogman <demodogman@gmail.com>
To : <Wiig@optonline.net>

Hey dave, joe stack, i looked closer at the tree cutting, and greg my neighbor said it was a private tree company. We believe they are cutting away the tree branches to run power from the pole across the street from my house down to the stage area. That's the only area that was cut. There is no power lines currently between my house and Bennitt's golf carts. Just phone and cable. The power ends at my house and is fed from Anderson Rd. If I am right and I think I am, he must get approval for the power, ?? And I wouldn't think this would be done for 1 more month of venues. I really think this whole thing must be stopped now or it will be much worse for P and Z and the town to fight this the longer it moves on and the more money Ben spends. I have pictures of the venue if you would like them. Not sure if P and Z actually has seen what is there. Many neighbors are furious with this. This is not outdoor eating, not even close

Sent from my Sprint Phone.

Subject: Twilight Concerts

Date : Fri, 25 Sep 2020 13:27:00 -0400

From : Carol Gillett <cgillett1022@gmail.com>

To : <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; <wiiig@optonline.net>;
<planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>

Cc : <bpaletsky@southfarms.org>

To Whom it May Concern.

I I I'm writing this on behalf of and in support of the Twilight Concert Series at South Farms. I
My family farm is directly across the street and my mother still resides there. I I

I I On a personal note, the concerts have been very enjoyable for me and my family and friends. I I
I have attended with friends and also with my children. I South Farms I has provided an entertainment
venue that I feel safe and secure at all while having a wonderful time. I The staff is excellent at
ensuring that all people are social distancing and the events are over at an early hour which I find very
respectful to those who live in the area, including my mother. I

I I I I have I also I noticed the positive impact the concerts have had on local area businesses. I
The Barn restaurant I in Morris is busy every night there is a concert. Food trucks from local businesses
are benefiting during the concerts as patrons purchase food and drinks at the concerts. I Local out of
town concert go-ers are staying at the Litchfield Inn and other area hotels. I So not only are the
concerts helping South Farms, which essentially was a wedding/special events venue prior to covid
basically shutting down that industry, it is also helping other types of businesses that have also been
impacted directly by covid. I The economic benefits have trickled down in a positive cascading fashion
to benefit not just South Farms but so many others. I

I I I I strongly support the events that are happening at South Farms from not only a personal, but
also an economic and cultural standpoint. I If you need any further information I from me or would
like to speak with me, feel free to reach out. I I can be reached via email or cell-860-459-4327. I
Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Kind regards,

Carol Gillett

Date: Sat, 26 Sep 2020 12:08:40 -0400
From: David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>
Subject: re: Fw: South Farms
To: kenneth kearney <k2kearney@yahoo.com>
cc: Jeton Adili <AdiliJeton@yahoo.com>, Planning & Zoning
<planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
In-Reply-To: <1518973038.700621.1601035985391@mail.yahoo.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Organization: Personal
X-Mailer: GoldMine [6.70.70226]

Elizabeth

You are correct that the extension of the executive order will extend the use. Regardless, the executive order specifically states that precedent is not set by implementing changes based on the executive order. Therefore, the use will likely continue until the executive order actually ends; however, it can't exceed the life of the executive order.

What has changed is that the outdoor performances are now the primary use. That is not a legal primary use in any district in Morris. As a result that cannot continue.

What Ben had in the past was an event venue in and around the white barn. There were outdoor musical performances; however, they were generally accessory to the primary use. For example bands at farmers markets, weddings and other get togethers to which it could be considered to be a customary accessory activity.

It has been brought to my attention that there were instances where this has gone beyond what was described. That is something we will look into once we see what we can do about the current situation. Regardless, before COVID, these activities were secondary to the use of the weddings, farmers markets and get togethers in and around the barn. This is similar to what we see with the Buddhist Temple that is nearby.

Thank you for your e-mail. This will be added to the record. It will be shared with the board and posted on the website.

Dave

----- Original Message -----

From: kenneth kearney <k2kearney@yahoo.com>
To: wiig@optonline.net
Date: Fri, 25 Sep 2020 12:13:05 +0000 (UTC)
Subject: Fw: South Farms

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: kenneth kearney <k2kearney@yahoo.com>
To: Planning & Zoning <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020, 08:07:52 AM EDT
Subject: Re: South Farms

Tony, my thanks for your prompt response. However, forgive me if I seem suspicious of this process. Please consider these issues.

- Governor's executive orders are extended into next spring/summer, no regulation on amount of events. What happens?
-
- Precedent is being set for these to be approved going forward. See below.
-
- Based on the following statement taken from Rolling Stone Magazine, Ben has and intends to continue this events, which is why he keeps saying "We've always done concerts"

Though the project had been in development for years, it wasn't until the pandemic hit that it got into full swing, with the venue constructed in just two and a half weeks before acts started performing in mid-August, says Keith Mahler, president of Premier Concerts/Manic Presents. Owner Ben Paletsky is the Max Yasgur of his generation," Mahler tells *Rolling Stone*, referencing the owner that leased his land to the original Woodstock organizers. "He caused this thing to happen outdoors at South Farms in the middle of this pandemic because live music was needed."

Underlined portion references prior paragraph of article speaking about South Farms. This sounds like an ongoing plan of development that has only been hastened because of the current situation. Covid is the excuse, not the reason.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Kearney
Anderson Rd.
Morris, Ct.

On Thursday, September 24, 2020, 08:59:58 AM EDT, Planning & Zoning
<planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com> wrote:

Hi Elizabeth

The concert series will most likely continue until the end of October based on the information available. If Ben wishes to continue these events he will have to do an application that will be put through a rigorous and intense process. The requirements will include a public hearing, engineered plans and much more detail than that was previously provided.

Thank You Tony Adili ZEO

From: kenneth kearney [mailto:k2kearney@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 10:57 PM
To: planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com

Subject: South Farms

Currently 10:28 p.m. on 9/22. The wildly inappropriate, maybe humorous, Bill Burr is yelling his head off. Oh boy, four MORE shows.!!! Thanks for not stopping this. Is there some reason they keep adding shows? Is Ben bound by contract to take every show Manic Presents wants to book? Why is South Farms LLC. a wholly owned subsidiary of the New Haven Center for the Performing Arts? Who really controls these events?

I don't care what Ben is telling you. These events are louder than they were when this started. Nothing is turned down.

We have been working with an architect for a few months and hoped to apply for permits to renovate our old house. This was to be a fairly expensive endeavor. We are starting to reconsider this venture and unless we get some guarantee that this will NOT be allowed next spring/summer/fall, we probably won't invest any more in this property. We have spent a lot of time and energy to make our home a refuge, we have always cherished the quiet, natural surroundings. Thanks to Ben, that may be gone.

Elizabeth Kearney

85 Anderson Rd.

Subject : Near miss and golf cart
Date : Fri, 25 Sep 2020 19:31:00 -0400
Linked to: lori Lindenmuth (Jeton Adili)
From : buddy96 <buddy96@optonline.net>
To : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>

Hello everyone,

Driving up 63 headed north on this evening I almost hit 2 staff from Sout farms. Who were crossing 63 from the barn and jumped in the back of this awaiting golf cart across the street at Brian's and I followed them racing up 109 and when they figured out I was taking their picture, we are now on Higbie, they slowed down..

Young guys having a good time.. ! I get it.

Beautiful evening ,70 degrees out clear skies and we had to go in and close out windows and doors. We are not enjoying the comedy show for the 5th time since Thursday.

Lori Kibbe
860 671 0108

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Subject: South Farms Music Events
Date : Fri, 25 Sep 2020 17:54:00 -0400
From : Martha Bernstein <mdb167@gmail.com>
To : <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; <wiiig@optonline.net>;
<planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : Ben Paletsky <bpaletsky@southfarms.org>

Dear Community Leaders,

Although I am a resident of Litchfield not Morris, I am writing to support Ben Paletsky's efforts to provide both entertainment and economic activity during this difficult time. I have followed the progress of South Farms since Ben undertook this effort to both preserve his family's farm and foster growth in our area. I have also been privileged to work with him on several local projects. He is intelligent and visionary as well as concerned with the good of the community.

These times call for all of us to make compromises in support of our neighbors and I know that Ben and his associates are working to do the best they can to respect others' lifestyles and at the same time enable his business to survive. It is also important for all of us to have opportunities for recreation and the chance to gather in a safe way. These concerts have offered those pleasures to literally hundreds of people. We also need as many employment opportunities as possible during this period.

Thank you for your efforts to work with Ben and the South Farms neighbors to achieve a successful resolution.

Martha Bernstein
mdb167@gmail.com
PO Box 1294
5 Emerson Court
Litchfield, CT
860 567-5067 home
860 480-4288 mobile

Subject : South Farms
Date : Fri, 25 Sep 2020 13:07:00 -0400
Linked to: renee normandin (Jeton Adili)
From : renee normandin <reeneenormandin@sbcglobal.net>
To : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>

Good afternoon Dave

Hope all is well. I am still waiting a reply to my last email. Below is a copy for you should you have missed it in your inbox. Also what is the date and time for the next meeting about South Farms?

Renee Normandin

My Previous email from 9/23/20

I hope this email finds you & yours safe & well. I unfortunately could not attend Mondays Sept 21, 2020 Special P&Z meeting concerning the Concerts & shows happening at South Farms. I was however able to view the video of this meeting last night. I want to thank you for sharing my email and entering it into the record. I do have a couple of questions for you. Will there be another meeting for public comments where the residents are actually allowed to speak & ask questions? Also where and how can I obtain & view current & all copies of South Farms (Ben's) original plans and approvals?

With those questions aside, I would also like to comment on Bens comments on decibel levels, weather condition's etc. While I am no expert on all those topics I am aware that they affect sound/noise travel etc. However I would like to mention that yes I hear motorcycles going up and down RT 109 & 63 often. I enjoy motorcycles just like I enjoy a good concert the difference is the motorcycles roar on by and then are gone, they do not stop in my front yard and rev their engines for 5 hours. Airplanes & helicopters are not taking off and landing nor are they circling a half a mile above my house for hours. Ben may simply be trying to make a point but really there is no comparison here. I look forward to hearing from you have a good night.