

Received 11:59 AM
November 4, 2020

Subject : The Twilight Concert Series
Date : Fri, 23 Oct 2020 15:16:00 -0500
Linked to : Jeton Adili
From : Jamie McDermott <jamiehmcdermott@yahoo.com>
To : 1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; wiig@optonline.net <wiig@optonline.net>; planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : bpaletsky@southfarms.org <bpaletsky@southfarms.org>

Good Afternoon,

My name is Jamie Kingsley. I am a local resident and a patron of The Twilight Concert Series at South Farms. I thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts to you regarding the concert series with the hope that some of my words can inspire productive thoughts and actions in support of South Farms.

The Twilight Concert Series at South Farms has been such a positive, safe and pleasant experience for each show that I have attended. I have attended 5 shows at South Farms. It has been a joy to experience the opportunity to view some incredibly talented artists in such a beautiful setting so close to home. When I heard the announcement of the Twilight Series I was excited to attend and also proud to be able to support a local business.

Ben Paletsky is local business owner who has created a gorgeous and very special venue in Morris for events. Surely there can be a way forward working together with the town to be able to continue hosting entertainment at the farm. There are many farms that do similar things in CT. March Farm in Bethlehem, CT hosts weddings, offers outdoor live music and events for families with food options. Jonathan Edwards Winery in Stonington, CT is a wedding venue and vineyard which also hosts concerts and events with food options. Realizing how special what Ben Paletsky has created is and considering the overwhelming positive feedback the Twilight Concert Series has received, with many shows sold out and most nearly sold out, it is evident that the community and surrounding communities want something like this. If Ben is not able to work with the town to find a way forward, surely another venue somewhere else will realize what Morris was not able to accomplish and capitalize on that opportunity for themselves. Keep this local, keep this in Morris. Allow a local businessman, taxpayer and family to succeed in their business ventures and survive.

The Twilight Concert series has provided jobs, it has brought culture to our beautiful town bringing people to visit our town, eating in our restaurants and surrounding town's restaurants, exposing them to our beautiful area and all that there is to take advantage of- all of the incredible businesses to visit and support.

The food trucks offered at the show are local businesses who have gained exposure from the series and earned revenue during this incredibly difficult time for small businesses.

As a former 10 year resident of Morris, I know Ben Paletsky and I know that if there is an opportunity to discuss concerns and find a reasonable path forward that Ben will work diligently with the town of Morris.

As a customer and local resident I truly hope that this is not the end of entertainment to be enjoyed at South Farms.

I will always support local business and I will always seek to experience art and culture in my area. I hope that I can continue to do this by being patron of my friend's business at South Farms.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

Jamie Kingsley

Subject : 10/21/20
Date : Sat, 24 Oct 2020 22:36:00 -0500
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
To : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>

Hello David,

I was not aware there was a meeting for southbfarms on Oct 21st, 2020!!!
I have previously requested notification of all South farms agendas communications regarding South Farms/Ben Paletsky. I am requesting this again today.
Please forward me the minutes and specifics of that meeting.

Thank you,

Lori Lindenmuth

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Subject : He can have all the engineers he wants.this does not fit our zoning Regs. He will need to reapply just like anyone else.
Date : Sat, 24 Oct 2020 20:41:00 -0500
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
To : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

X South Farms

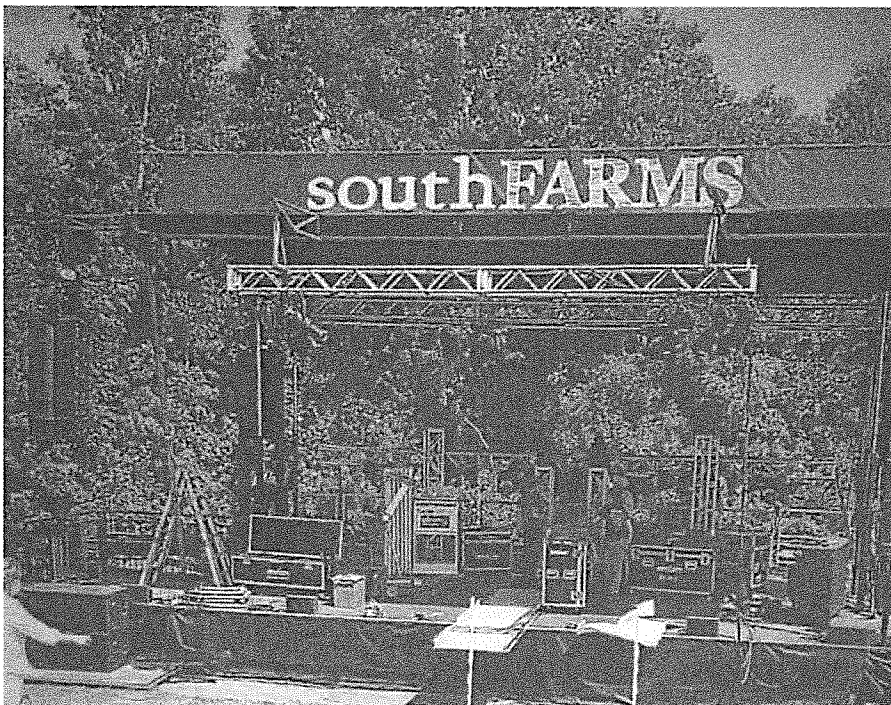


South Farms



3h •

SOUND CHECK!!! Tomorrow we're having an acoustic engineering company test and measure sound travel in the area. We appreciate everyone's patience!!!



Write a
comment...



Subject : Why doesn't this apply to South Farms?
Date : Sat, 24 Oct 2020 20:32:00 -0500
Linked to: lori Lindenmuth (Jeton Adili)
From : buddy96 <buddy96@optonline.net>
To : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>

Thank You

Lori Lindenmuth

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Zoning Enforcement Officer has inspected the land, building or other structure involved to determine that the use and/or the buildings or other structures conform to these Regulations.

Orders: The Zoning Enforcement Officer is authorized to issue a Stop Work Order if, in his judgment, the use of land, buildings and other structures or the construction, reconstruction, enlargement, extension, moving or structural alteration of a building or other structure are not being carried out in compliance with these Regulations; he shall withdraw such Order when he determines that there is compliance with these Regulations. The Zoning Enforcement Officer is authorized to order in writing the remedying of any condition found to be in violation of these Regulations.

Records: The Zoning Enforcement Officer shall keep records of all fees, all Zoning Permits and Certificates, all identifiable complaints of any violations of these Regulations, all inspections made under these Regulations and all notices of violation served by him and the action taken thereon.

Renewals: Where the renewal of a Zoning Permit for a Special Exception use is required under these Regulations the following renewal procedures shall apply.

Subject : re: Oct 21 meeting
Date : Sun, 25 Oct 2020 21:23:00 -0500
Linked to : cj aleksyna (Jeton Adili)
From : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>
To : cj aleksyna <the427king@yahoo.com>
Cc : Jeton Adili <AdiliJeton@yahoo.com>; Planning & Zoning
<planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>

Chuck

Because there was a Cease and Desist order issued, this will be on the agenda for the foreseeable future. Nothing of any significance transpired. The board just reviewed the letter that Tony sent with the minutes to officially deliver the Cease and Desist.

There was also a short discussion by the board of traffic on Higbie Road after a concert and several other related issues. The bulk of the meeting was spent on the Town Plan. At most 10-15 minutes was spent on the matter.

Dave

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

From: cj aleksyna <the427king@yahoo.com>
To: "David R. Wiig" <wiig@optonline.net>
Date: Sun, 25 Oct 2020 02:40:13 +0000 (UTC)
Subject: Oct 21 meeting

David , I was not aware that a meeting on Oct 21 included information relative to south farms . I would appreciate a brief overview of what transpired at the meeting. Please advise of future meetings that include south farms , I would appreciate it. I did get notice from you of a previous meeting and assumed I would be notified of all the meetings Thank you. Chuck Aleksinas

Subject : re: I watched the You tube of Oct 21st
Date : Sun, 25 Oct 2020 17:43:00 -0500
Linked to : lindenmuthlori (Jeton Adili)
From : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>
To : lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>

Lori

Geoff Paletsky did recuse himself. He did it on his own without being asked. He appears to understand the rules. As for southFARMS, no additional action was taken.

Dave

----- **Original Message** -----

From: lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
To: "David R. Wiig" <wiig@optonline.net>
Date: Sun, 25 Oct 2020 09:59:48 -0400
Subject: **I watched the You tube of Oct 21st**

Hello David,

This audio engineer the same one doing Bens sound checks?
Bens cousin needs to recuse himself.
And there is no content about what was discussed at this meeting.
Can you update me on the above please .

Thank you,

Lori

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Subject : re: 10/21/20
Date : Sun, 25 Oct 2020 21:35:00 -0500
Linked to: lindenmuthlori (Jeton Adili)
From : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>
To : lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
Cc : Jeton Adili <AdiliJeton@yahoo.com>; Planning & Zoning
<planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>

Lori

Once a Cease and Desist is issued, the board will generally keep the item on the agenda. The only meeting that will likely not have southFARMS on the agenda will be the 11/9/2020 meeting where we are focusing on the Town Plan. I will ask that Tony send you the agendas for all of our meetings as long as the Cease and Desist action is in force or anything related to southFARMS, Ben Paletsky or his property at 21 Higbie Road is on the agenda.

Dave

P. S. This will include all meetings. I plan to have this on the agenda regardless. For the 11/9 meeting, if it is not there, we can always add it; however, this is unlikely. The agenda can be modified for any regular meeting, which means the first Wednesday or second Monday of each month.

----- **Original Message** -----

From: lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
To: "David R. Wiig" <wiig@optonline.net>
Date: Sat, 24 Oct 2020 22:36:43 -0400
Subject: **10/21/20**

Hello David,

I was not aware there was a meeting for southbfarms on Oct 21st, 2020!!!
I have previously requested notification of all South farms agendas communications regarding South Farms/Ben Paletsky. I am requesting this again today.
Please forward me the minutes and specifics of that meeting.

Thank you,

Lori Lindenmuth

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Subject : re: Why doesn't this apply to South Farms?
Date : Sun, 25 Oct 2020 21:46:00 -0500
Linked to : lori Lindenmuth (Jeton Adili)
From : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>
To : lori Lindenmuth <buddy96@optonline.net>
Cc : Jeton Adili <AdiliJeton@yahoo.com>; Planning & Zoning
<planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>

Lori

Once something becomes an issue the board is debating, the Zoning Enforcement Officer usually defers to the board. This was the case here. It is true that the Zoning Enforcement Officer could have issued a Cease and Desist; however, the board initially tried to discuss this with Ben. In the end, with no easy resolution to the issues, the board decided to issue the Cease and Desist order. While the Zoning Enforcement Officer can issue a Cease and Desist, it usually comes from the board instead.

Dave

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

From: buddy96 <buddy96@optonline.net>
To: "David R. Wiig" <wiig@optonline.net>
Date: Sat, 24 Oct 2020 20:32:14 -0400
Subject: Why doesn't this apply to South Farms?

Thank You

Lori Lindenmuth

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Subject : South Farms
Date : Sun, 25 Oct 2020 21:35:00 -0500
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : Renee Normandin <reeneenormandin@sbcglobal.net>
To : David Wiig <wiiq@optonline.net>

Good evening

So on a night when the music is definitely toned way down they're going to have the engineer go around and measure sound/ decibels.... I would say unbelievable but somehow this doesn't surprise me.Can't wait to see if next weekend which is supposedly the last weekend ...If it will be "toned"down again.Have a good night.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject : South Farms feedback
Date : Thu, 29 Oct 2020 10:25:00 -0500
Linked to: Jeton Adili
From : Ronald Gold <ronpgold@gmail.com>
To : <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>; <wiig@optonline.net>;
 <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>

My family has owned a home in Morris for more than 40 years and I'd like to share some thoughts about the amazing new outdoor venue at South Farms.Â

I attended a concert last month with my wife and it wasÂ so enjoyable that we'll be going back again and again. This first time, we saw Southside Johnny, a performer we've enjoyed several times in the past.Â

It was a beautiful September evening. The show started at dusk and progressed to a night filled with a clear, starry sky. We bought some food and drinks at the concessions and settled in for the show. It had been the first time since March, when the pandemic hit, that we felt comfortableÂ attending any event at all -- anywhere.Â

The set-up at South Farms was by far the most pandemic-protective operation we have come across.Â

Everything from Covid-19 warnings signs and staff enforcing mask-wearing to temperature checks, health questionnaires, and multiple hand sanitizer stations -- plus the most important part with seating that is outdoors AND is 8 feet apart in every direction. This is exactly what Americans need to feel comfortable to support local businesses. Owner Ben Paletsky knows that and he has delivered comfort and safety to customers asÂ well as a great entertainment service.

I'd also like to share what happened when Ben learned that I am paralyzed from the waist down following aÂ bicycling accident thatÂ left me unable to walk at all.Â

When my wife and I drove up to the field thatÂ night, we were directed to a free, accessible parking spot up close to the entrance, and staff members immediately came over to ask what they could do to help me with my wheelchair. They offered a golf cart to take us to our reservedÂ seating. I decided I would be able to maneuver my wheelchair to our viewing spot because the path was on a bit of a downhill slope, but I did take them up on their golf cart offer after the show -- when it was uphill! Again, the staff was courteous, helpful, and a delight to work with.Â

I should also mention that when we first inquired about tickets and had questions about accessibility for the disabled, Ben invited my wife to tour the site while it was under construction in the earlier part of the summer. He picked her brain about the best options for people with disabilities, whether they use a wheelchair or have other limitations, and he genuinely welcomed ideas and solutions to make the venue accessible to all. He succeededÂ beyond expectations.

I'd like to thank the Town of Morris for welcoming programs like the South Farms Twilight Concerts series and look forward to continuing to support localÂ businesses and enjoying many more shows at the farm.

Sincerely,
 Ron Gold
 Breezy Knoll

A case for (more) music at South Farms

There have been few bright spots or positive distractions for most over the last eight months. For those of us in the northeast, with winter upon us, we are now faced with more isolation and longer hours indoors. This fall, I was lucky to live within driving distance to South Farms and experience a few concerts there with several of my friends. It was a safety first experience from top to bottom; from mandatory contact tracing questionnaires to incredibly strict social distancing and full sterilization of portable bathrooms, the thought and execution were noteworthy. The music under the stars was uplifting and spirited and at moments felt perfect. It was a relief from the low grade chaos that seems to occupy space in nearly all of our daily lives. I recognize that bringing full-volume outdoor concerts to a bucolic town like Morris, CT has its challenges with many detractors. However, the inconveniences are minor especially considering that they are temporary. Yet, the wonderful experiences that I had, and I speak for so many of the other concertgoers at South Farms, will help carry me through the long winter ahead and whatever continued challenges we are presented with in the later months to come. In addition, knowing that South Farms will be able to host more concerts next Spring and beyond would give so many of us something great to look forward to. Let's give South Farms a chance to make necessary improvements during the winter break and have a sophomore season that benefits both locals and live music fans!

Scott V.
Hudson Valley, NY

Subject : Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: 11/1/20 update re: South Farms
Date : Sun, 1 Nov 2020 16:55:00 -0500
Linked to: Aneta Klusak (Jeton Adili)
From : "Klusak, Aneta" <klusaka@brookfieldps.org>
To : 1st Selectman <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>; <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>

Hi Mr. Weik,Â

I've driven out of town today and didn't grab one. I will definitely let you know if there is disruption from the rescheduled bands this week and send a recording your way. Thank you for your continued attention to the matter!

Aneta Klusak

On Sun, Nov 1, 2020 at 4:28 PM 1st Selectman <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com> wrote:
Could you supply an audio recording from today?
Thank you,
Tom

On Sun, Nov 1, 2020 at 3:37 PM Klusak, Aneta <klusaka@brookfieldps.org> wrote:
Hello Mr. Wiig and Mr. Weik,Â

Checking in with another update.Â
I understand that there was some sound engineering done on South Farms recently per Mr. Paletsky's announcement on Facebook. However, based on today's very loud show (surprising because of the rain), I notice no reduction in the disruptiveÂ volume.Â

Although Mr. Paletsky may produce paperwork attesting to this "engineering," I trust it would be compared to neighbors' testimonials and that he will be required to formally re-apply for a new permit after February 1st.Â

Thank you,Â
Aneta KlusakÂ

Subject : Happy Sunday Everyone
Date : Sun, 1 Nov 2020 13:11:00 -0500
Linked to : lindenmuthlori (Jeton Adili)
From : lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
To : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>; Planning & Zoning
<planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>

Hello,

Writing to you with your weekly update.
1pm and rehearsal has never been louder.

Thank you,

Lori

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Subject : Re: South Farms
Date : Sun, 1 Nov 2020 18:03:00 -0500
Linked to: renee normandin (Jeton Adili)
From : Renee Normandin <reeneenormandin@sbcglobal.net>
To : David Wiig <wiiig@optonline.net>

So on another weekend minus the cancellations of Friday & Saturdays shows I now get to listen to rehearsals on Sunday Morning very loud for the afternoon show's. Can hear it in my living room with the doors and windows shut and it's raining. Unacceptable and the shows just keep moving out further into November.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 25, 2020, at 9:35 PM, Renee Normandin <reeneenormandin@sbcglobal.net> wrote:
>
> ?Good evening
> So on a night when the music is definitely toned way down they're going to have the engineer go around and measure sound/ decibels.... I would say unbelievable but somehow this doesn't surprise me. Can't wait to see if next weekend which is supposedly the last weekend ...If it will be "toned" down again. Have a good night.
> Sent from my iPhone

Subject : re: P+Z
Date : Sun, 1 Nov 2020 20:27:00 -0500
Linked to: DEROEHN
From : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>
To : DEROEHN <kderoehn@optimum.net>
Cc : Planning & Zoning <planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com>; Eileen Narbutas <enarbutas@neach.org>

Kevin

The southFARMS application was approved based on Executive Order 7MM. This temporary statute provides a path for expedited approval. That is why the Zoning Enforcement Officer approved the application, not the board.

Executive Order 7MM was intended for Outdoor Dining. It was not intended for a use like the one at southFARMS. Additionally, Executive Order 7MM was relatively unknown to both the board and the Zoning Enforcement Officer at the time. We had just found that the approval for Outdoor Dining at The Barn - that was taken to the board by the Zoning Enforcement Officer - should have simply been approved by the Zoning Enforcement Officer. While the sequence of events has been unfortunate, the approval is temporary. Any desire to retain the current configuration after Executive Order 7MM expires will require a new application. Additionally, the board has issued a Cease and Desist that is effective on February 1st, 2021, regardless of the status of Executive Order 7MM. As a result, there is already a defined end date.

Unfortunately, this attachment got lost in the shuffle. I am in the process of forwarding it to the board. In the meantime, I just wanted to reach out to you to explain the current status.

Dave

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

From: DEROEHN <kderoehn@optimum.net>
To: wiig@optonline.net
Date: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 07:43:44 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: **P+Z**

Good morning Dave,

Thank you for sending me the notice concerning recent meetings on the concert situation at South Farms.

I am sure this entire thing has been quite an effort for the commission to deal with, and I thank you for your work.

Please find the attached request for consideration.

Thank you,

Kevin DeRoehn

Date: 10/13/2020

To: Morris Planning + Zoning

Re: ZEO

Hello,

I have waited on sending this letter until a decision / action was determined on the concert situation currently being held at South Farms. Now that an action has been taken by the Morris P+Z, I am submitting this letter for your discussion as well as any corrective action necessary.

I am strongly requesting that a letter of reprimand be given to the Morris Zoning Enforcement Officer and a copy kept in his employee file for his mismanagement of the permit application submitted by South Farms. Legal advice should have been sought BEFORE the permit was approved, not after when it became obvious Mr. Paletsky would take legal action.

Now that 2 legal opinions have been heard, and a group of residents have gotten legal representation, P+Z should do what they can to assure the people of Morris, this will not happen again and will not be swept aside.

I find the timing of the entire situation rather questionable,

On July 7th 2020, the Board of Selectmen had a meeting that only 2 members attended; Erica Dorsett Matthews made a motion to add an item to the agenda, seconded by Tom Weik. The meeting minutes show discussion with Ben Paletsky on upcoming events.

On July 8th 2020 the permit for South Farms was approved.

This seems to have taken a much faster track than anticipated, even with Governor Lamont's Covid-19 Executive Order in effect. Did Mr. Adili attend the B.O.S. meeting the night before? If so, this would seem to have been planned and not spontaneous. Did the B.O.S. or 1st Selectman have any influence on his decision?

I know that you have had several complaints on this matter and more are probably coming, but this has a direct effect on my family, my property value and myself. Something needs to convince myself and the rest of Morris that P+Z is actually doing what is in the best interest of the Town as a whole.

Thank you

Kevin DeRoehn

212 Watertown Rd

Morris CT 06763

Subject : South Farms. Going forward.
Date : Mon, 2 Nov 2020 14:00:00 -0500
Linked to: Scott Simmons (Jeton Adili)
From : Scott Simmons <scottquiethills@yahoo.com>
To : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>

Hi David.

I'm highly disappointed at the amount of noise once again from South Farms concert yesterday. While things seemed to be better in some recent events, it was worse than ever yesterday.

I ask that you contact me whenever there is a meeting regarding south farms or if Ben files any new applications.

It is my understanding that Ben hired an engineer to sound sample at different locations? Is that true? If so My house was not included.

Lastly, I would like to speak to Ben. Do you have his phone or email address you can share with me?

Regards - Scott Simmons

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 6, 2020, at 9:02 PM, David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net> wrote:
>
> ?Attached is the agenda for Wednesday October 7th, 2002. The southFARMS entertainment venue is on the agenda.
>
> Dave
> <October 7th Regular meeting agenda.docx>

Subject : Visitors from States that require quarantine
Date : Tue, 3 Nov 2020 20:05:00 -0500
Linked to: lindenmuthlori (Jeton Adili)
From : lindenmuthlori <lindenmuthlori@gmail.com>
To : 1st Selectman <1stselectman@townofmorrisct.com>
Cc : David R. Wiig <wiig@optonline.net>

Hi Tom,

I have 2 questions I would like to speak with you about. Re:South Farms
As the municipal enforcement designee, how are you dealing with visitors who are flying in from States that require quarantine?(Not the ones that are only here for 24hours).

Second, Erica stated she is no longer doing business with Ben/South Farms.

Everything we read still has her as a partner.

We would like to see exactly when she dissolved that partnership. Can either of you show us when that happened?

Your attention to these matters are very important.

Thank you,,
Lori Lindenmuth

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.