

From: Laurie Collins <laurieanncollins@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:04 AM

To: Planning Director <PlanningDirector@townofnewbury.org>; Planning Director <PlanningDirector@townofnewbury.org>; Martha Taylor <m.taylor@townofnewbury.org>; Alicia Greco <agreco@townofnewbury.org>; William DiMaio <wdimaio@townofnewbury.org>; Geoffrey Walker <gwalker@townofnewbury.org>; Leslie Matthews <lmatthews@townofnewbury.org>; Dana Packer <dpacker@townofnewbury.org>; townadmin@town.of.newbury.org

Subject: Marsh Meadow application

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband, Tom, and I are property owners of 15 Austin Lane and are abutters to the Marsh Meadow Lane application.

Tom expressed our concerns at the last Planning Board meeting in regard to potential problems with drainage from the proposed parking lot as the barn property is elevated from ours and many of our neighbors' lots. We have wells. We have not had a response to that yet.

I would like to speak to allegations about Newbury residents who have been asking for clarification about this project - especially the scope of it and think that I can speak for all of us when I say we are not opposed to art and artists practicing their craft and teaching in the barn space.

Personally, in my professional life, I have supported and hired artists, musicians, dancers, yoga instructors, environmentalists and animal rehabilitators for the last 25 years. Perhaps I could have been an ally for this project. I have known one of the artists involved in this project since he was a boy, and have advocated for him among other libraries for his classes. I hold no animosity towards him. I do not believe that Facebook is the venue to discuss this matter especially as it skews the public perception of the neighbors. We are homeowners with questions.

What residents are asking for from public officials is that they consider everyone's concerns. I understand that the Dover Amendment gives the applicant some leeway, but do believe that Newbury officials must be cautious in approving this project in-part, without the whole picture approved in writing.

We hope that you have accurate answers to questions - for example the number of parking spaces at the tenant's facilities, Evenstride Farm, owned and operated by the Laffey's, if the applicant requests larger events and accurate numbers for the successful craft fair that was held.

Will town officials oversee events to ascertain that they are following rules and guidelines that have been presented by public safety officials, including the Board of Health? Who will ensure that instructors working with children have a current CORI?

We appreciate the role of public service officials, especially those who run for office and volunteer for various boards throughout the town and thank you for your consideration to our concerns.

Respectfully,,

Tom and Laurie Collins
15 Austin Lane
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