

Jennifer Roy

From: Karen Murdoch <kemurdoch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 8:22 PM
To: Jennifer Roy
Cc: Mark Murdoch
Subject: 4 Town Fair ZBA Public Hearing

Jennifer,

I am writing with regard to the hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the decision to allow the sale of alcohol at events held by, or with permission of, the Union Agricultural Society at their property at 56 Egypt Road.

I am in agreement with your decision in July of 2020, reinforcing the decision to permit the sale of alcohol at events other than the annual Four Town Fair. The Society has been afforded this privilege since the 1960's, prior to a time when regulations for such activity were required.

I am quite concerned with the ability of neighbors to change permitted activity that has been previously granted by the town Zoning Board. I hope the Zoning Board of Appeals rejects the appeal against the activity granted to the Society.

--

Karen Murdoch
24 Gulf Road
Somers
413-896-3288 (C)

Jennifer Roy

From: MARK MURDOCH <murks4@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 8:09 PM
To: Jennifer Roy
Cc: Karen Murdoch
Subject: 4 Town Fair Appeal

Jen:

A use of land or of all or portion of building or structure which is subordinate to the principal use of the land, building, structure which is located on the same lot as the principal use or on a contiguous lot under the same ownership. The primary usage of the grounds is the Annual Four Town Fair held in September. The usage of the grounds for events or activities is secondary to the primary usage which is the annual Fair. The grounds at 56 Egypt Road is contiguous and has been owned by the same organization since 1960.

It would be completely inappropriate and set a bad precedence to change what has been accepted for decades. The local residents of Egypt Road are wrong in requesting a reversal of your clearly correct and logical decision.

I agree with your decision, as the Town of Somers Zoning Enforcement Officer, as supported and collaborated with the Town of Somers Town Attorney, regarding the Four Town Fair grounds appeal. Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Murdoch
24 Gulf Rd
Somers

Jennifer Roy

From: Gregory Maxwell <maxwellgregory@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2021 7:57 AM
To: Jennifer Roy
Subject: Save the Four Town Fair Grounds

The fair grounds are an important part of the healthy and positive promotion of agriculture in our community. They need to operate year round in order to be financially viable, as no event venue can operate only once per year. The fair grounds were there before these homes were built, and have not changed their operations. This should not even be a question, but the fair grounds should be able to continue all normal operations throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Eileen Maxwell
8 Wilson Court
Enfield, CT 06082

Jennifer Roy

From: Erica Fearn <efearn@auerfarm.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2021 10:06 AM
To: Jennifer Roy
Subject: Somers Zoning Appeal
Attachments: 2021.02.06 Oppose Four Town Fairground.pdf

My apologies for not getting this to you yesterday.



Erica Fearn, CAE Executive Director, 4-H Education
Center at Auerfarm

860.242.7144 | efearn@auerfarm.org

158 Auer Farm Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002



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OPPOSE THE APPEAL AND SUPPORT SOMERS ZONING OFFICERS RULING

February 8, 2021

Dear Zoning Board of Appeals,

The 4-H Education Center at Auerfarm opposes the appeal and supports the Somers Zoning Officers ruling regarding the use of the fairgrounds for year-round use.

The Fairgrounds provide an irreplaceable service to the Auerfarm 4-H program. Our 40 plus member club is represented by a diverse group of youth from Hartford, Bloomfield, and West Hartford. The 4-H projects include donkeys, cows, rabbits, poultry and alpacas. Exhibiting at the Hartford County 4-H Fair is an integral part of the 4-H program. Each year the Auerfarm 4-H'ers develop animal care skills, build confidence, knowledge, develop life skills, and form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive members of society. Being part of the Hartford County 4-H Fair provides the opportunity for them to experience self-directing first hand. While at the 4-H Fair they are responsible for every aspect of their project animal(s) care as well as working with other 4-H youth to put on the fair.

For many years the Fourtown Fairgrounds have been integral in advancing youth through the 4-H program, "making the best better." Please support the Zoning Officers ruling regarding the use of the fairgrounds for year-round use.

Sincerely,

Erica Fearn, CAE
Executive Director & 25 Year 4-H Volunteer Leader

158 Auer Farm Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002
860-242-7144 www.auerfarm.org

The 4-H Education Center at Auerfarm is a privately funded, registered 501C(3) and equal opportunity workplace.



Jennifer Roy

From: June Zoppa <zoppa1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Jennifer Roy
Subject: Four Town Fairgrounds

February 11, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in opposition to the appeal filed by the neighbors of the Four Town Fairgrounds against the Somers Zoning Officer's decision. I support the use of the fairgrounds for the Four Town Fair and Hartford County 4-H Fair along with off-season rentals.

Sincerely,

June Zoppa
354 Long Hill St
East Hartford, CT 06108
Hartford County 4-H Fair Advisor

Jennifer Roy

From: Jennifer Hale <jlhalern@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 10:12 PM
To: Jennifer Roy
Subject: Fwd: Zoning meeting 2/9/2021

Please see my email for the Zoning meeting 2/9- Thank you Jenn Hale

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jennifer Hale <JLHaleRN@hotmail.com>
Date: February 8, 2021 at 10:10:38 PM EST
To: jroy@somerct.gov, eric.hale77@hotmail.com
Subject: Zoning meeting 2/9/2021

Hello, as a resident of the Sunshine Farms neighborhood I would like to make sure my statement is read at the meeting on February 9.

As I am not intimately involved from a legal standpoint, I do want to make my position known. I am a supporter of the Four Town Fair as it is one of our families favorite annual memories, even before we moved into this town. As a Girl Scout leader and soccer coach, I am proud to walk with the Girl Scout float and Soccer Association every year. Our family has also supported and attended other activities on the fairgrounds and hope to do so in the future. I do not wish for the fair, or other agricultural activities (mud bog, etc) to end. I understand the need to subsidize some costs of the fair with other activities throughout the year.

My concerns stem from allowing any group to hold activities on those premises without any special permits for review of how the land is used. I am specifically concerned with late night music, as well as, the potential sleeping/camping on the grounds for concerts, etc.

In my opinion, this is not how a small rural town should use these grounds due to concern for safety. As a former trauma nurse in Hartford, I have seen first hand how a seemingly well-meaning event can go wrong with no oversight and/or proper planning. My favorite band, Dave Matthews, was requested by the hospitals, EMS and police community not to come back for 5 years to the Xfinity center due to the inability to control crowds. This lead to a huge financial burden to the city and medical community. We do not have a police department in town, how will the safety of event goers and the Town of Somers citizens be ensured if there is no review and/or oversight of each specific event held there?

I moved to Somers because I grew up in a small town. I want to raise my kids in one, and I know many other families feel the same. I hope our community can come together to find a reasonable solution while maintaining the very reasons why we love living here in a safe, kind, family-friendly community.

Sincerely, Jennifer Hale RN MSN

Sent from my iPhone

Jennifer Roy

From: dminney <dminney812@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Jennifer Roy
Subject: zoning board of appeals/ special use

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10
To Whom it May Concern;

My name is David Minney ,I reside at 31 Country Fair Drive, Somers, CT along with my wife April as abutters and owners of this property for 27 years, WE are as close as you can get to the fairgrounds, as well as others on this street. I am now retired at this address.

First and foremost this is a zoning issue. No one involved with this appeal "wants to get Rid of the Four Town Fair or The 4h Fair period". This is about a Special Use permit to review some of the tenants use before and after the fair has ended.

Some have asked "Why after 30 years a special use permit?" Because as an abutter I have witnessed that some of the tenants you rent to have shown more and more outrageous abuse of Alcohol and amplified music once you shut the gates. Camp fires start, often all night and up to 4-5am the next morning. This nonsense is well outside anything allowed in any other residential zone In Somers.

I ask why are we denied the same protections from the zoning board that is otherwise given other residential zones in the town? This is a residential zone!.

Abuse of zoning rules is abuse. This festival is a Woodstock type festival .From 12pm to 12am, Piggy backed with people sleeping in their cars overnight!! I'm sure there will be no abuse there! as past history shows. The promotor was denied his "music festival" on Hall Hill road prior to his back door scam under the disguise of agricultural use, this is nothing more than smoke and mirrors, for a festival promoter to personally enrich himself at the price and equal rights of myself and this neighborhood. Is this really agriculturally connected ?

Please refer to zoning rules 8.2 A purpose and intent A page 137 Expansion or Extension is specifically Approved by the commission by special use permit.

As a prior employee of Springfield Audio and Electronics for 6 years and Soundco electronics I am very familiar with the appropriate levels of amplified music and voice, many times those were outside the accepted zoning standards .If you wonder how I would know this, I still own a sound level meter to this day.

Last but not least the buffer of trees planted between my home and the fence, all the lower branches were cut by a crew from the fairgrounds all along the length of the fence ,rendering it useless as any sort of buffer! Myself as will as my neighbor will witness to that fact.

thank you ,
David Minney

Jennifer Roy

From: Smith, Christine <christine.smith@uconn.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Jennifer Roy
Subject: Opposition to appeal - Four Town Fairgrounds

2/8/2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in opposition to the appeal filed by the neighbors of the Four Town Fairgrounds against the Somers Zoning Officer's decision. I support the use of the fairgrounds for the Four Town Fair, the Hartford County 4-H Fair and other off-season rentals. These off-season rentals provide various programming opportunities for youth and adults alike, many of them related to farming and the responsible raising of livestock in our state. The agricultural use of land is dwindling in CT for many reasons. Many people are no longer connected to where their food comes from, or the growers of their food. During this pandemic we learned more than ever how important it is to recognize those who feed us. This fairgrounds provides an opportunity to meet many of these farmers in different capacities.

The off-season rentals provide the income needed to keep the fairgrounds open. Without them, we will likely lose the agricultural fairs that not only use the grounds but also provide much of the maintenance needed to keep the fairgrounds safe and enjoyable. Without the additional income the programs provide, the association will certainly struggle to survive.

I personally participate in several activities at the fairgrounds each year. As a 4-H leader, I can attest to the importance of these events for the youth in our community. The opportunity to show their projects to each other and evaluators, participate in leadership opportunities that translate to real world use, and educate the public about all manner of projects is unmatched. Our family has supported the 4-H program since my husband and I were involved as youth. Our son learned about and showed all species of animals shown at the 4-H fair. He was a youth officer involved in planning and executing the fair from the age of 10. He has grown up to be a productive member of society with a degree in an agricultural field. He understands the importance of helping his neighbors, providing support to those in need, teaching what he learned, respecting other people's property, leaving an area better than he found it. All skills learned through his involvement in 4-H and the fair – community service, leadership, working together. He is now a 4-H leader himself supporting the next generation of youth.

I have been the Chair of the CT Dairy Goat Association annual show, which has been held at the fairgrounds and is scheduled again for 2021. This show provides the only opportunity in the area for an open American Dairy Goat Association sanctioned show for goat breeders in CT and surrounding states. With so many back yard goat owners in CT this is an opportunity to learn from some of the best breeders in the country, from right here in CT.

It would be a shame that a few homeowners, who purchased homes adjoining an active fairgrounds, are able to destroy one of the few spots in our area that can accommodate an agricultural fair. I do not imagine they would be happier if the land had to be sold because the association cannot afford to keep the land without

rental income. A housing development or industrial use would surely be less attractive than a few activities throughout the year.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

Christine Smith

Heather Lane, North Granby, CT

Hartford County 4-H Volunteer, Alumni, and Supporter

and

CT Dairy Goat Association, immediate past Show Chair, former board member

Christine Smith

Educational Program Assistant

UConn Extension

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Torrington, CT 06790

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