



Zoning Administrator &lt;zoninggreensborovt@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter to the Development Review Board**

10 messages

**Jennifer Bayles** <jenniferbayles@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 3:26 PM

To: zoning@greensborovt.org

Cc: keisha@highlandartsvt.org

I write in response to the June 18 decision by Greensboro's Development Review Board (DRB) to deny a request from the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) to use amplified sound at a series of outdoor events on their grounds this summer for small, socially distanced audiences. I commend the HCA for their efforts to provide arts experiences and entertainment to our community in ways that are responsible and safe during the coronavirus pandemic. However, I am dismayed that the DRB saw fit to block those efforts. Today I learned that the denial is being appealed. This letter is in support of HCA's appeal.

I attended the initial DRB meeting on this subject (via Zoom) and based on the Board's decision, it is clear the only issue was concern about the use of amplified sound. With no demonstrable evidence of the volume of sound or decibel levels that would be required for these events or what levels might be acceptable for the DRB to grant such a request, I am at a loss to understand the Board's decision. According to the minutes of the meeting, the DRB also considered a motion of its own to grant a strictly limited, one-time, permit for the events this year in light of the pandemic, but this too was voted down.

I fully support preservation of the rural character of our town and understand that "noise pollution" can impact the peaceful quiet and serenity we all enjoy. However, I believe the HCA request was both mindful of and sensitive to its rural surroundings. Their efforts to provide quantifiable evidence of decibel levels and the impact of amplified sound will no doubt be helpful to the DRB in making a better informed decision, and ultimately reverse the previous one.

This community enjoys a long-standing tradition of cultural opportunities — visual arts and crafts, music, theater, dance, film — that are all a part of the fabric of Greensboro. We all benefit from places like the HCA and other small businesses that "sustain tourism, support our economy, and are gathering places for local residents" as outlined in the Town Plan (full draft, April 8, 2019).

I urge the DRB to more carefully consider the ways in which supporting the HCA and other small businesses contributes to sustaining and enriching our "little piece of paradise," rather than putting seemingly arbitrary roadblocks in the way.

Thank you for all you do.

With appreciation,  
Jenny Bayles  
Reservoir Road  
802-533-2959

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**Zoning Administrator** <zoning@greensborovt.org>

Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 6:48 PM

To: Rob Halpert &lt;rob@highlandartsvt.org&gt;

Hi Rob,

I received this letter today.

Best,  
Brett  
[Quoted text hidden]

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Brett Stanciu  
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82 Craftsbury Rd.