

There has been two issues brought up in the past two meetings. First the question of is this agriculture? The second is why does it have to be so close to the road?

To answer the first one I don't know how this could be looked at as anything other than agriculture? If a farmer grows raspberry's, blueberry's and strawberry's and turns them into jelly or pie's what's that considered? If a dairy farmer takes a portion of their milk and turns it into butter, cheese or ice-cream what's that considered?

What people need to realize is like so many aspects of our economy agriculture has changed. 80 years ago my grandfather was milking around 30 cows and like so many other dairy farmers of that time it was more than enough to support and entire family while being the soul provider. being a third generation farmer if I was trying to make a living the same way my grandfather was it would be downright impossible. Over the decades the farm has been forced to get away from dairy and has now changed to hay dealing and we've exapanded our pig operation so with my wife working full time we're able to stay living in this town a raise our family. In order for people to stay with agriculture they have no choice but to adjust with the times and this is no different.

For the second issue people wanted to know why it had to be so close to the road? So the Ridgeways' spent all the time and money moving it 1,100 feet of the road. Then we realized that wasn't really the concern all along so they had to switch up the argument to "what about all the people leaving the cidery intoxicated?". There was questions like who will monitor these people when they go blasting out of Ridgeways' driveway and onto Town St gravel flying, rubber burning, vehicles swerving all over the road? Being a runner for just over 20 years now I myself immediately became concerned for my own safety because that's one of my main routes. I don't wanna end up under the axle of a pick up truck or find myself on the hood of a tesla. Then after some careful thought I asked a couple of members of the Cream Hill Lake Association if that was considered a dry club? They laughed and responded with NO! You can bring as much booze as you want whenever you want and there is nobody monitoring that place and my fears went away immediately because I'm still standing after 2 plus decades of running on Town ST and all the surrounding roads.

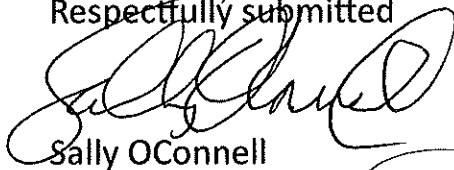
Thankyou.

Richard
Dolan
1163
Cornwall
12/12/2023
Nbillaw 2 ✓
make part
of
record

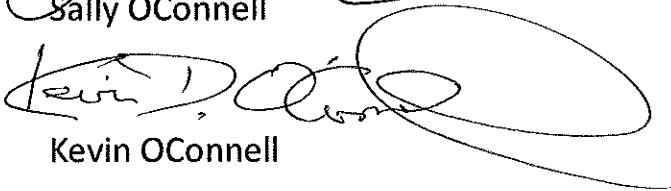
To: Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission
From: Sally and Kevin OConnell
Date: December 11, 2023
Re: Ridgeway Cidery

We are in favor of the farm cidery, farm store and detached accessory apartment at 142 Town Street as proposed by Ian Ridgeway and Jayne Ridgeway. It is a well thought out proposal which will benefit the Town of Cornwall. They have clearly given much thought to the proposal and have listened to concerns expressed by others. They have adapted and changed their proposal to align with some of those concerns while continuing to address the applicable regulations.

Respectfully submitted



Sally OConnell



Kevin OConnell

51 Cherry Hill Rd.

West Cornwall, CT

12/12/2023
Submitted
by
Maggie
Coley
a red into
the
record

To the Planning and Zoning Commission

When I was growing up in the 40s and 50s, farm families like the Harts and the Hurlburts could raise 8 children on smallish holdings and send them on to college and graduate school. The Scovilles, Heddens, Golds, O'Donnells and Calhouns only had 4 or 5 kids, but also managed very nicely. Sadly, this is no longer the farming reality, and agricultural land use has had to adjust accordingly, with the State's Right-To-Farm laws weighing in to underscore the importance of this activity in the face of any perceived conflicts.

Twice in recent memory there have been challenges to other than strictly nostalgic farm operations, where material produced elsewhere is brought in and becomes part of a local agricultural enterprise: Maple Hill Farm's hay business and Cream Hill Farm's importation of out-of-town manure. In both of these cases the Commissioner of Agriculture issued a personal approval and the businesses thrived and the farms survived.

All over town there are fields that would have been completely lost to bittersweet or multiflora if for decades enterprising farmers hadn't roamed far and wide to cut and carry off the hay back to their own operations. Most people making and selling maple syrup tap trees beyond those that they own. In this context, the question of what other farms the apples used in Ridgway cider come from while the bulk of their own trees mature seems immaterial.

I have read the submissions on the P&Z website and feel as though the objections raised by Cooper and Ellis and the Ingersolls have either been answered by changes to the application or can be addressed by the Commission. I am somehow not alarmed by the specter of alcohol use on this site. The cases given by attorney Williams seem a little like an elephant sitting on a mouse. Alcohol is presumably consumed up and down Town Street without any restriction as to frequency or time of day, not to mention larger alcohol-fueled gatherings at such places as the Cream Hill Lake Association or the Cornwall Library. Having music doesn't make this Altamont or Woodstock. The Ridgway parents are after all the nearest neighbors.

I hope you will approve this application. Thank you

Margaret Cooley, December 12, 2023

12/12/2023
read with
Alex
mcc

Richard Bramley

Cidery Public Hearing Dec. 12, 2024

My Name is RB...

I have 3 major points & a simple survey to speak about:

POINT #1

The Ridgway Farm is an on-going, established, diversified farm and has been for over 40 years and is entitled to have a Cidery.

The Ridgway Farm plans to have in place 5 acres of planted apple trees this spring. They are planting the orchard and planning the needed facilities as simultaneous events. They are entitled to have this cidery based on state law and CT Farm Winery & Cidery Regulations, which encourages farm diversification.

There is no denying this application as it is allowed and encouraged by State law and all aspects of this application are encouraged parts of the Town Plan.

1. An Accessory apartment, with or without the farm manager living there
2. Encouragement of small businesses
3. Encouragement of farming

*12/12/2023
read into
recor*

POINT #2

References the Inaccurate & Inflammatory portrayal of this application:

Rumors and statements insinuating that this application would lead to a package store or a bar is as ludicrous and inaccurate as if it would lead to gambling or prostitution. You should be ashamed for being so inaccurate & inflammatory.

I own the only legally allowed licensed Package Store in the Town of Cornwall. This is based on Liquor Commission Regulations & Cornwall's population. Any licensed entity selling alcohol-based products requires a permittee; This includes all package stores, restaurants, grocery stores, wineries etc. This person is the lawfully designated responsible person for that license.

A mile down the road there is a facility, Cream Hill Lake Association. There is no liquor license, there is no permittee and there are 200 member families and guests. There is alcohol consumption, not tasting, that is individually self-administered. There are also live music and food truck events.

I am NOT implying there are any problems at CHLA, in fact I may provide much of the alcohol consumed. But many people here are also members at CHLA, are insinuating that a cidery tasting would be a problem on the farm.

You can't have it both ways.

POINT #3
Control & Compromise

The control that P&Z does have are in the details:

Parking, Lighting, Music, Hours of operation, naming several

But you should not over-regulate this, and restrict & choke this application into a non-functioning and non-viable entity.

Compromises need to be made on all sides. To loosely quote the Rolling Stones:

You can't always get what you want, but you get what you need.

Major compromises have been made by the applicant and it is about time some compromises are made by the opponents.

I'll give the survey when I speak again