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JUL 23 2020

Town of Ossining
Building & Planning Department

July 23, 2020

Dear Zoning Board:

I am a big fan of the unique educational opportunities of our diverse community but sadly Ossining students have been deprived of normal social interaction due to Covid-19. For this reason I am writing in favor of Bethany Arts Community's request to augment programming with use of its wonderful outdoor space.

During these trying times, Bethany's offer to provide children with exciting, socially-distanced learning opportunities will help fill a gap. Being outside is safer and learning about the arts and nature will be so heartening to kids. In some cases families can't adjust to on-line learning. Bethany's outreach will extend to these families, and in keeping with this historical site's spiritual origins, will be of service to others.

Bethany's plan is a good choice for the long-term, too. One example that comes to mind is the Ossining MATTERS educational foundation and its 5k race, which is now a fall tradition on the Aqueduct—no one could ever guess what a vital organization Ossining MATTERS would become, but it began with an exciting event that takes advantage of an outdoor resource in a way that has grown integral to our Town and Village.

Bethany is in a beautiful spot and I find it hopeful that it may soon be able to offer exciting programs in an accessible outdoor setting. We can all use a little hope right now!

Best to you all and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Stephanie Lynn Kleiman, [REDACTED], Ossining, NY

Sandra Anelli

From: K Jeffrey [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 4:51 PM
To: bldgdept
Subject: Fwd: Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - Monday, July 27, 2020

Good afternoon. It is my understanding that Bethany Arts Center needs a variance in order to provide outdoor classes and/or programming.

The location of the property is such that any such outdoor programming will not affect the neighbors in a negative way. Further the property is large and safe and therefore conducive to such programming. Lastly, in this time of a pandemic when businesses and organizations need to do everything they can to stay solvent, we should, as a community, be doing everything possible to assist.

For all the reasons above, as a Town resident, I urge you to provide this applicant with the permit they need.

Thank you.

Kim Jeffrey

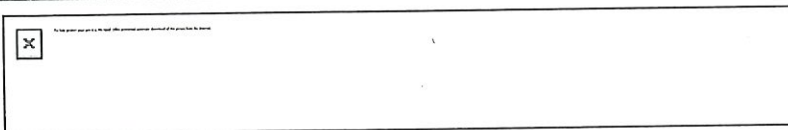
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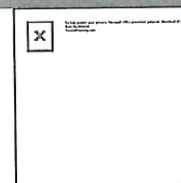
**Town of Ossining
Building & Planning Department**

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From: Zoning Board Chair Sal Carrera <bldgdept@townofossining.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 20, 2020 at 4:03 PM
Subject: Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - Monday, July 27, 2020
To: [redacted]



The Volunteer-Spirited Town



Town Board

Town of Ossining Zoning Board of Appeals

Monday, July 27, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Dana A. Levenberg
Supervisor

Elizabeth R. Feldman
Council Member

Sandra Anelli

From: Emily Hemingway [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:48 PM
To: bldgdept
Subject: In Support of Expanding Programs at Bethany Arts Community

Dear Members of the Zoning Board,

This message is express my wholehearted approval of the application of a permit for Bethany Arts Community (BAC) to offer outdoor programs. I live in Croton on Hudson and have spent time on the grounds of BAC. In my opinion, it is a prime location to hold outdoor activities thanks to the amount of land and the wealth of creative and educational experiences that the artists of the Community can share with people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

There is a growing body of research demonstrating the benefits of time spent in nature for the physical, mental, and emotional health of children and adults. BAC is offering enriching activities for personal development as well as appreciation for the natural world. Considering our increasing encroachment on the environment along with the importance of social distancing in our uncertain times, the need for such programs has never been greater.

I live near a park in Croton and I smile when I hear the kids enjoying their time outside. I know that outdoor play is an essential piece of childhood (and being a human of any age) and we are fortunate to live in an area where these natural spaces are available. Neighbors may have understandable concerns about the changes and I am confident that the leaders of BAC will be considerate of these concerns.

I hope you will also see the urgent importance of programs that Bethany is offering to the community. Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Emily Kim

Physical Therapist
Owner, Growing Up Sensory
97 Maple St.
Croton On Hudson, NY 10520
emily.hemingway@gmail.com

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