

Abutter-Topsfield Fair

21 July 2023

Topsfield Zoning Board of Appeals
Mr Moriarty
Mr Merrill
Ms Clineff
Mr Smith
Mr Moniz
Ms Palace
Ms Bermudez

Rec'd 7/26/23

No name/address.

Return label was
marked "Abutter Topsf
Fair"

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Soul Fest concert scheduled for two weeks from this day on 4 August 2023. I am an abutter to the space used for overnight camping. I have received no information from Town, Fair, Agricultural Society or Soul Fest like I am supposed to and have a legal right to. I did not receive abutters notice from The Town Administrator either. The letter he wrote to us about the fair. I have received all my information by word of mouth, local newspapers online and Facebook. The information from my neighbors varies because they are always left out as well. This has not been the first time no information has been provided and the town, boards and politicians should be embarrassed of themselves.

I moved next to the Fair and the Fair did not move next to me, but I did not move next to a campground or next to what I have witnessed in my backyard during the past weeks. Weekends are supposed to be relaxing and enjoyable. Mine and my neighbors are not because of the events held at the Fair. I have worked very hard my entire life to live in this beautiful town and I would not have moved to my house if my backyard would be part of loud overnight guests like it will be during the Soul Fest. It was never a place to overnight camp before this year and I have lived here for more than 10 years in Topsfield. It is becoming obvious we are all being kept away from knowing about events.

I have been told the Fair violated zoning 12 times that the town is aware of and that is not right. One time should be a warning or fine, two times an investigation and notice to losing right to apply. That is how most towns do it who care for their residents. Not here in Topsfield lately though. I have also read some of the information available on the towns official website and I find it insulting that the Fair provided an old black and white photo of two scouts in single tent as evidence there is regular camping at the fair. There is not regular camping there or the things they need to camp there safely. As a abutter I can tell you right now please open your eyes to this too, no one has ever camped here like they are

planning to camp at Soul Fest. I have seen the map of where the camping will be and I want to tell them I do not want this in my backyard. I never got notification from anyone and if I did I would have said no to it. It is my legal right to be notified as it is my legal right to voice my opposition to illegal events. These events are not allowed with the laws we have and you should know this. It should be told to them by the Zoning Board that this is not agriculture, education or a campground.

When the big bouncing event was here we had to leave the house because it was so loud. The generators were on all day and all night and we did not like that we had to leave because of the noise and all the people. I do not feel like I should call the police about noise as I have seen recommended we do. The police should be used for emergency only. Had I known about the event maybe I would have been able to plan in advance but I am not going to call police about noise. The fair should know better. That was only one of many times I wish I were somewhere else but my house and that is not the fault of my own but the fault of the man who runs the fair.

I saw people with notebooks in the 97 lot yesterday and it was sad knowing residents will have to give up another weekend for him to line his pockets at our expense. It is sad the residents have to fight with the town and the politicians and waste time for us and for them to make them see they are not doing the right thing. We should have known about this when the town was notified of all the events. I heard that the town got a list of events at the fair. Not just abutters but everyone should receive a list because this effects the entire town. And like this summer, it has ruined every weekend for everyone close to the fair not just abutters weekend. How come after the town and politicians noticed he did not fulfill requirements with them in zoning that the residents were not made aware of that? Now you are telling me it happened 12 times? 12 times you did nothing and 12 times you told no one. That is not right.

It is a shame he has been doing this to the town for so long and now the town is over a barrel with him. For me, I think a person who values something would never put themselves in a position to lose it as this man has done over and over again by not getting permits and not telling residents about his loud events. This is illegal and he should be removed. I know you cannot do that but he is causing a wedge between residents and the town politicians as they do not stand up for us and our rights when he knows and the town know what he does every weekend is illegal. None of these events are agriculture categories and none of them are educational. How does the town collect meal tax when everything I see is paid in cash with no receipts and no register? I do not understand how the town lets him host these loud events and lets this happens in plain site every weekend.

He tried to put a concert festival in the parking lot on the hill and residents around there made the rest of us aware of what he planned to do. He was going to ruin their summer like he has ruined ours with illegal events and they put a stop to it fast before the town gave him permission. They did the right thing because he would have ruined their summer and caused more traffic, noise and chaos for the rest of the residents. Did the town and the politicians not like what they did and are letting him get away with no permits now for illegal loud events? Those residents need to be running things and representing the rest of us against the man who runs the fair instead of the town and the politicians we have now because they have done nothing protecting us from the fair or Soul Fest.

I am sad I have lost my good feelings with the fair and I hope that does not happen with my town relationship because they will not do the right thing and stand up for me and abutters. It is shameful for the Zoning Board to pass this campgrounds permit for him and have residents suffer because it seems like they are afraid of what this man will do. That is what I have heard from people and that is what I now think too. We do not care about his reputation going under or agriculture society losing money because those are not reasons why he should get a camping permit like he says they are. He cannot ask for sympathy when he himself put himself and the society here in the first place. He has earned no sympathy from me or abutters who cannot have their summer back from him. This is about the town and the Zoning Board doing the right thing for not just me and abutters but all residents in the town after this man has done harm to us and our ability to enjoy our lives. He has already violated 12 times and now will be 13 if you give him the next permit that is not legal. I understand business is involved and we all want the fair to do good and for everyone to enjoy the fair but in business you still have to do the right thing and he has not done right thing going behind everyone's back and neither will you if the permit for the illegal loud camping is given to him.

Thank you for reading.