

January 26, 2021

Robert J. Moriarty, Jr., Chairman
Topsfield Zoning Board of Appeals
Residents of Topsfield
8 West Street
Topsfield, MA 01983

Dear Mr. Moriarty, Zoning Board Members, and Residents of Topsfield,

We are writing today to respectfully withdraw our application for a Special Permit to operate a Drive-in Concert Series at Fair-View Farm during the spring and summer of 2021.

As some of you may know, it is part of the mission of The Cabot to enrich the cultural life of our community with live music, quality films, and community events. Along with thousands of other arts and culture organizations worldwide, we were forced to close our doors in the spring of 2020 due to the pandemic.

During this difficult time, we have searched for ways to stay connected to our community, to provide hope in an increasingly isolated and divisive society, and to reconnect artists with their audiences. One of the ways we have achieved that goal has been by presenting live music outdoors in a safe environment. We were able to achieve that mission in part last summer by partnering with Historic Beverly to present a safe, socially distanced outdoor concert series on the grounds of Hale Farm. It allowed us to put people back to work and to serve our community, providing many evenings of enjoyment for a small group of enthusiastic fans. We applauded other arts and entertainment organizations that were able to find ways to operate safely. One of those was the Topsfield Drive-in, which we understood was a well-run, welcome addition to the summer calendar in Topsfield. After discussing possible locations for outdoor concerts at the Fairgrounds, Fair-View Farm emerged as an ideal location specifically because we believed the lay of the land would allow us to control the sound from traveling beyond the perimeter and impacting neighborhoods. We worked closely with the local authorities and experts in our field to explore the feasibility of this site and it seemed in the initial discussions that traffic could be managed and the negative impact of these events on nearby residents would be minimal.

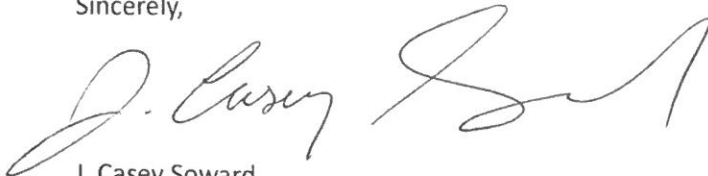
We have reviewed the many letters and emails sent in by the residents of Topsfield and after careful consideration have concluded that we are unable to align our mission to enrich the cultural life of the community when the neighborhood that would be most impacted by our events did not support this proposal. We appreciate that many of the residents had kind words to say about the Cabot and the Fair and were open to discussion with us. We understand the concerns of neighborhood, and while it was tempting to promise we could solve all of them, we know we are unable to do so and still provide the high-quality live concert experience that The Cabot is known for.

We will continue to look for another site where this can happen and hope that many of you will join us when we do.

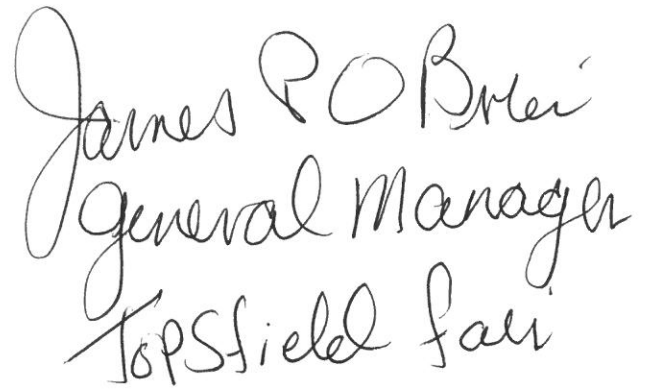
Thank you for the opportunity to present our proposal and for the all of the time and consideration given to us by the Town and residents of Topsfield in exploring the feasibility of this endeavor.

We look forward to continuing the conversation and perhaps in the future we will come before you again with a different proposal that is better suited to your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Casey Soward".

J. Casey Soward
Executive Director
The Cabot

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James P O'Brien".

General Manager
TopSfield Fair