

Town of Pound Ridge

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NEW CANAAN
PLANNING & ZONING

July 27, 2016

New Canaan Planning and Zoning Commission
Attn: Mr. John H. Goodwin, Chairman
Town Hall
77 Main Street
New Canaan, Ct 06840

Dear Chairman Goodwin and Members of the Commission:

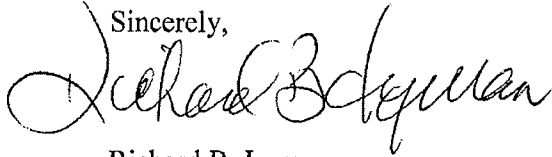
I am in receipt of the June 24, 2016 letter from Steve Kleppin, Senior Enforcement Officer, to the Grace Farms Foundation. This was supplied to me by one of the New Canaan neighbors of Grace Farms, and I assume the intent was to enlist support from the Town of Pound Ridge in regard to their complaints about activities at Grace Farms. (I note this with interest, as until it was threatened to close Puddin Hill to commercial traffic no one seemed to care what Pound Ridge or Lewisboro thought about the project's effects on our roads. That said, I am also thankful that appropriate measures were put in place to ensure the integrity of our roads was preserved during construction.) That concern remains first and foremost now with the increased traffic from the Foundation's operations, including the use of the shuttle busses. I do agree with Mr. Kleppin's assertion that the handling of traffic has been done well and I have received but one complaint regarding that issue. I would hope that whatever the Commission decides in regard to the apparent expansion of use under their permit to operate that the police presence remain a requirement.

I have enclosed herein an article from the July 22, 2016 Pound Ridge/Bedford Record Review for your perusal, as I believe it bears out the notion that the property is far less a "church" than it is something else. Kindly note the reference in the article to the "700-person performance space, called the Sanctuary". Performance space? Really? Also, a recurring recommendation I hear is that "you must really go to Grace Farms for lunch, it is terrific", which seems a rather upscale if not perverted twist on the proverbial church basement soup kitchen. Thank you, I'll pass.

Some of you may recall that I publicly stated in one of your site plan review meetings that following my reaching out to Ms. Prince, President of the Grace Farms Foundation, to open

a dialogue between the Town of Pound Ridge and the Foundation to address our concerns, I did not find Grace Church to be exactly brimming with Christian charity. Reading the attached article in conjunction with Mr. Kleppin's letter, I see little to alter my thinking in that regard, as it appears that after all of your hard work on this application you ultimately fell victim to a bait and switch. Be that as it may, it is there now and not going anywhere. I will reiterate that, while traffic issues to date have not materialized, the Town of Pound Ridge remains focused on the use of our road as an extended driveway to ensure that this "Church" use, or whatever it morphs into in the future, does not negatively affect our taxpayers. Please bear that in mind as you contemplate the necessary changes to their operating permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard B. Lyman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Richard B. Lyman
Town Supervisor

Cc: Supervisor Parsons

RL/msv

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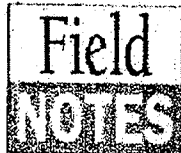
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Summer performances at Grace Farms

This summer, Grace Farms, an 80-acre property located in New Canaan, Connecticut, invites the public to attend a number of arts programs.

The Grace Farms Foundations' Arts Initiative summer programs bring artists together to develop and present new work. It features a series of site-specific pieces, workshops, collaborations, talks and performances. Artists from many disciplines are invited to Grace Farms to spend several days creating work focused around a singular topic.



The summer series includes performances by several singer-songwriters as well as a second installment

of Grace Farms' Practicing series, which explores spiritual and ethical practices through artistic collaboration. A program entitled "Practicing Awe" will feature a showing and discussion Saturday, July 30 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

"The Arts Initiative fuels connections across disciplines and provides a canvas to express and respond to nature, community, justice and faith," said Sharon Prince, president of Grace Farms Foundation.

The Practicing series brings together New York City-based Galim Dance; multi-instrumentalist, composer and singer-songwriter Cindertalk; countertenor Daniel Moody; soprano Nola Richardson; and Grace Farms Nature and Wildlife Ambassador Mark Fowler. The process of engaging awe will include a period of silence, during which the artists will encour-



SASHA ARUTYUNOVA PHOTO

The Wagon Wheel performing outdoors at Grace Farms.

ter birds of prey with Mr. Fowler, as well as a walk to Cattail Pond to experience Susan Philipsz's sound installation titled, "New Canaan."

The first summer season opened July 16 with a special performance series, Sunset Performances, set out in the natural environment. These intimate evenings of original music will continue Saturday, August 13, with the southern folk styles of singer-songwriter, Kelley McRae. The program will run from 4:30 to 6 p.m.; tickets are \$25.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to experience the site-specific art commissions and permanent art installations throughout Grace Farms. The works currently on view include Thomas Demand's "Farm 56" and "Farm 88," large-scale photographs of architectural models for Grace Farms; Teresita Fernández's "Double Glass River," an installation made of thousands

of small, handcrafted silvered reflective glass cubes that bring the landscape indoors; and Olafur Eliasson's "Mat" for multidimensional prayers, woven from the wool of Icelandic gray sheep and on view in the Sanctuary.

Grace Farms also encourages visitors to enjoy unstructured time throughout the grounds or in the River building. The nearly transparent building, which blends into the surrounding landscape, is comprised of five glass-enclosed volumes, including a 700-person amphitheater-style performance space, called the Sanctuary; a library; a living room with a fireplace and a dining room with communal tables made from trees harvested on site called the Commons; an intimate Pavilion with tea services; and a multi-functional recreational and performance space called the Court.

Grace Farms Foundation was established in 2009 as a private operating foundation with 501(c)(3) status in New Canaan, Connecticut. The Foundation supports initiatives in the areas of nature, arts, justice, community and faith, and encourages participation on a local, national and global level.

For more information, visit gracefarms.org.

Grace Farms is located at 365 Lukes Wood Road, New Canaan, Connecticut.

Bear necessities

Tomorrow, Saturday, July 23, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join the Wolf Conservation Center for an in-depth look at the American black bear (*Ursus americanus*).

The speaker will be Melissa Rusczyk of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Black bears have begun to repopulate the Northeast, and learning how to coexist with these iconic and resourceful animals is crucial, both for the bear and human populations, according to the WCC.

Participants will learn the "bear basics": biology, feeding habits, and how to live with these often misunderstood mammals.

Recent sightings of black bears have been reported in Pound Ridge and Bedford.

After the seminar, participants will have the opportunity to visit with WCC's ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr.

The fee is \$14 for adults; \$11 for children under 12.

To register, call 763-2373 or visit nywolf.org.

The Wolf Conservation Center is located at 7 Buck Run, South Salem.