

Lyons Mayor Hollie Rogin, Lyons Board of Trustees, Lyons Town Staff

First and foremost I'd like to say that I am not opposed to the proposed zoning changes being requested by Riverbend except for the use of outdoor amplification. I am wholeheartedly in support of Riverbend building a larger structure to contain amplified music. The negative impact of outdoor amplification without a building at Riverbend on the neighboring residents has proven to be enormous. My family and I have been neighbors living across from Riverbend for the past 20 years. When we moved to our home, Riverbend was a residentially zoned neighborhood and had been for decades beforehand. It was a quiet and peaceful community of people living in mobile homes bordering parkland. When Riverbend became a wedding venue after the flood destroyed the homes there, the amplified outdoor music during their temporary zoning made life at our home intolerable when they had events there which would be up to 3 or 4 nights a week. The sandstone cliffs surrounding the Riverbend property are an iconic part of Lyons natural beauty. These same covered cliffs are also a natural amphitheater that amplifies sound out and upwards to the many surrounding residents. This is something that other venues in town don't have to contend with. Many have expressed their dismay that this one particular property has been singled out and that there has not been equality in zoning. The shape of the cliffs and the inability to manage the sounds reverberating off of them is why Riverbend was zoned as a non amplified outdoor venue in 2016. Those findings have not changed. What has changed is that there are now new owners. Owners who bought the property knowing there was special zoning put in place to protect the neighboring residents from noise pollution. When working with Mike Whipp and Betsty Burton, previous owners of Riverbend, to come up with a solution regarding the sound issues, I remember them saying "Above all we want to be good neighbors." And they were for the past 8 years. I don't believe this zoning request is personally targeted to cause those of us living near Riverbend to suffer, but I can think of little else more personal than where we call home. I am asking you, the Mayor and town board to keep the Riverbend zoning as it is in regards to outdoor amplification and that amplification only be allowed within a contained building. Please honor the sanctity of our homes so that they can continue to be a place of refuge and respite in a community I am fortunate to call my home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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