

May 14, 2018

Dear Town of Otsego Planning Board,

We are writing in support of the Fly Creek Cider Mills application to renovate the historical barn at 276 Goose Street, Fly Creek, NY.

As we sit on our front deck, we often say how lucky we are to live on Goose Street. We feel that we live on the best street in Fly Creek. Our neighbors are respectful, helpful and considerate. Their properties are always clean and well maintained. This includes the Cider Mill. Mr. William Michaels maintains a beautiful business. He is respectful and helpful to his neighbors.

We are always pleased when we see a historical building being put to use instead of crumbling into the ground and the walkway will decrease the amount of human traffic on the bridge which is always a safety concern. I expect that Mr. Michaels will include some historical facts when renovating the building as he has done at the cider mill. He has some very interesting facts posted about the history of the establishment.

Yes, the traffic on Goose Street increases in the summer, not just because of the Cider Mill but also because of the rental houses for the Cooperstown Dreams Park.

Again, we are in support of the Cider Mills application.

Sincerely,

David and Janette Lyons

# *The Blessins*

*162 Goose Street, Fly Creek, NY 13337*

May 20, 2018

Town of Otsego Planning Board  
Town of Otsego  
PO Box 183  
Fly Creek, NY 13337

Dear Chairman Huntsman, Members and Alternate Members:

As residents and owners of property at 162 Goose Street, we support Michaels' Heirloom Barn Application at 276 Goose Street in Fly Creek.

We have reviewed the application, attended the public hearing, reviewed the correspondences and read your meeting minutes.

Upon review of the record, the law and our comprehensive plan, we agree with many, including some of our neighbors on Goose Street, that the project supports the Town's Comprehensive Plan by creating a low-impact, family-owned business (page 3). Further the application supports the implementation of first-priority strategies of encouraging adaptive reuse of historic buildings for residential and/or commercial uses (page 6).

Having reviewed the draft minutes and written statements from the Public Hearing, we disagree with many of our neighbors claims of noise and traffic associated with the existing Cider Mill operation. Ironically, we have witnessed that it is the locals who operate their vehicles at excessive speeds on Goose Street. We find that non-residents who are unfamiliar with the road travel under the speed limit.

Claims of noticeable or excessive noise or odors from the Mill has never been witnessed by us during our forty-nine years in residence. What is noticeable and disturbing is the continuing sound of high-caliber firearms coming from residents neighboring the Cider Mill.

Neighbors claim that traffic has impeded the use of the road by pedestrians. Our observations are that pedestrian traffic has increased in recent years particularly with residents exercising both themselves and their pets. Goose Street has become such a favorable pet-walk that it has become a drive and park destination for many residents.

Some of our neighbors commented that the proposed project would negatively affect property values. Having been through the recent real estate recession and two town-wide revaluations we do not see this to be the case. We view the Mill on Goose Street as an enhancement to our value as it is a successful, well-run, family-friendly tourism attraction adding to the Town's quality of life.

As long-time residents of Goose Street we hold a sense of pride with what the Michaels Family has accomplished to sustain and grow the Mill in our Community. Historically, Fly Creek has been home to many commercial operations, many of which were in the primary Hamlet. We used to have a creamery, liquor store, multiple full-service restaurants and bars, other Mill and shop. Today Fly Creek has little left to crow about and we are proud to have the Mill on our Street!

One of our concerns when reviewing the application is the method by which your board applies the same law to different applicants. Recently you supported the Heirloom Barn Law Application of Ms. Donna Beth Kimmerer which is also close to our residence. From reading the record this seems to have been done with speed and efficiency having, some requirements waived altogether. Why are the Michaels held to a higher degree of scrutiny under the same law that Ms. Kimmerer was approved?

In closing we know that you have heard from a vocal minority of residents who are not supportive of this application. Ironically some of the negative comments are from residents who located to our neighborhood knowing full well the activity that the Mill generates. Proximity to the Mill may have even been an influencing factor for them to settle here. Please keep our comments in mind as well as the lack of comments from other immediate neighbors when applying this Heirloom Barn Law to the Michaels' application.

Sincerely,

*Arthur Blessin*

*Beverly A. Blessin*

Art & Bev Blessin

162 Goose Street  
Fly Creek, NY

1 Elm Street  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

May 30, 2018

Chairman Huntsman  
Town of Otsego Planning Board  
Town of Otsego - PO Box 183  
Fly Creek, NY 13337

Dear Chairman Huntsman,

Mr. Michaels toured me through the proposed Craft Beverage Manufacturing and Retail Heirloom Barn Application project and stated that the Planning Board had questions regarding the scale of production. I am writing to provide my experience as it relates to your question of scale.

First a little about my background. I started the Cooperstown Brewing Company (Milford, NY) in 1994. At the time we had a 20 barrel system capable of making 4 brews a week which equals 124,000 gallons per year. The brewery was open 7 days a week. Our major focus was on sales outside of the brewery through self and licensed distribution. At its peak we had 65% of our beer being sold off-premise from Binghamton to Lake Placid.

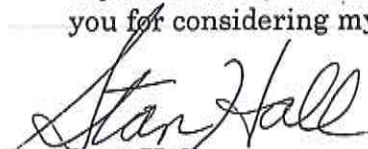
If selected to be a brewery, the size of the proposed space will constrain the amount of product produced. This, in addition to the plan to market the product directly to consumers will further limit the amount of product made on-site. Compared to the Cooperstown Brewing, Mr. Michaels' plan will be vastly downsized with a small brewing room, retail and storage space.

The proposed manufacturing space can accommodate no more than a three-barrel system which is of the same scale as the local Council Rock Brewery who also markets its products directly to consumers. As foodservice in the Barn is not part of the plan this further limits the amount of production.

From my experience production capacity will be 150 barrels a year which is less than 6,000 gallons annually. Putting this into perspective, Brewery Ommegang produces more than 35,000 barrels or 1,050,000 gallons.

As a resident of the Town I support the Michaels' Application as a small, family-owned, craft business complementing the area's other small producers and the Town's Comprehensive Plan. As a venue I would not recommend it to be approved as it is likely to fail however, being adjacent to the Fly Creek Cider Mill with its existing visitors, there is potential for success.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 547-8325. Thank you for considering my comments.

  
Stan Hall