

To: Board of Adjustment and Appeals

From: David R. Hill

Date: March 26, 2014

Re: Corson variance application

As the Center Director for the Maine Small Business Development Center at CEI for the past thirteen years, I understand the obstacles and challenges entrepreneurs face and must overcome to start a new business. Local permitting is high on that list.

This is difficult for me to write as I have good friends on both sides of this issue whom I respect and admire. While I acknowledge their concerns, I firmly believe their objections are either mistaken, exaggerated, irrelevant or correctable.

I won't waste your time with the details of that last statement, other than to say that the only valid issue raised by those opposed to the variance is, in my opinion, that of the sound/noise levels. We as a town have not done a very good job of setting time limits for such events or enforcing those we have in place. This is a solvable problem and should not prevent young entrepreneurs from starting a business. We simply have to do a better job setting realistic and acceptable time frame parameters.

If the issues raised by those opposed were valid, there would be no place on Chebeague Island where a business such as is being proposed could exist. This may even be true for the entire State of Maine. In fact, again assuming the validity of concerns, we should not allow the Chebeague Inn or Sunnyside (www.sunnysideview.net) to host weddings or similar events and I am by no means suggesting that this should be the case. To the contrary.

If the Board approves the requested variance, the message will be that entrepreneurs *can* make it on Chebeague Island. If the variance is denied, the message will be just the opposite and that is not a healthy message if we want to preserve the long-term viability of our beloved island.

I implore the Board to do the right thing and grant the variance as requested.

Respectfully,

David R. Hill

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