

HVSF/GGC

Letters from the public

4/2/21-4/30/21

***Note: no new letters were received for this batch until 4/13**



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@philipstown.com>

HVSF new plan

3 messages

betsy calhoun <marieelizabethc@gmail.com>
 To: CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@philipstown.com>

Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 8:48 PM

I am concerned about the lack of clarity and specifics for this project. It seems the plan for the Shakespeare group has been extended in area and possibly also in expected residents. Is there a map of their plans available to the public?

What, exactly, is the business plan? The hospitality project did not make money; now the expectation is that the Shakespeare Festival will be financially supported by the hospitality? Clearly the project should make money and pay taxes IF there is permission to develop that project.

I STRONGLY REQUEST THAT THE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL FIND ANOTHER PROPERTY. THERE WILL BE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO LAND THAT SHOULD REMAIN OPEN, UNDEVELOPED, IF STRUCTURES ARE BUILT, AND HOUSES BUILT, INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS WILL SERIOUSLY DAMAGE THAT OPEN LAND.

Betsy Calhoun

CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@philipstown.com>

Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 1:46 PM

To: Dennis Gagnon <dgagnon@philipstown.com>, HEIDI WENDEL <hwendel@philipstown.com>, Heidi Wendel <heidi.wendel@gmail.com>, Kim Conner <KConner@philipstown.com>, LAURA MA OCONNELL <loconnell@philipstown.com>, Neal Tomann <ntomann@philipstown.com>, Neal Tomann <ntomann@glynwood.org>, Neal Zuckerman <NZuckerman@philipstown.com>, Peter Lewis <petergarfieldlewis@gmail.com>, Peter Lewis <plewis@philipstown.com>, Ron Gainer <rjgainer@comcast.net>, Steve Gaba <sgaba@drakeloeb.com>, "Zuckerman.Neal@bcg.com" <Zuckerman.Neal@bcg.com>, Robert Flaherty <rflaherty@philipstown.com>

Will be included in the next batch of letters but forwarding so you have now as well.

Thank you,
 Cheryl

[Quoted text hidden]

CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@philipstown.com>
 To: betsy calhoun <marieelizabethc@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 1:47 PM

Hi Betsy,
 Just wanted to confirm I received this and will share with the board members.

Thank you,
 Cheryl

[Quoted text hidden]



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillipstown.com>

Letter to the PB re the HVSF's Proposed Plan

4 messages

Robert Cutler <rbcutler@mac.com>

Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 8:52 PM

To: Cheryl Rockett <crockett@phillipstown.com>

Dear Chairman Zuckerman and Planning Board Members,

First let me say I know you all have already spent a lot of time on this project, and there will be more to come. Many people I know, and I, appreciate all the good work you do for Phillipstown. It's hard work but believe me, it is not thankless.

1. Wind

Let me start my five comments with this: Walking up the hill at the end of the second site meeting, I started chatting with a guy next to me who turned out to be Neal Tomann. We introduced ourselves in the parking lot.

It was windy that day and as we walked up he volunteered that it would be even windier up on top of the ridge. I agreed.

That got me thinking. I did an informal little wind test several days later, on March 29th. It was quite windy that day. But by 5pm it had died down to 15mph in Garrison according to The Weather Channel.

So after going to the Post Office, where there was hardly any wind, I went up to the golf course. Somewhat windy in the parking lot. About 15 mph I'd say.

When I got to the top of the ridge, it was really blowing. I stood near a small evergreen tree. This is what it sounded like. It's about 60 seconds long. Please listen to all of it. Visitors will be in the tent for about two hours.

It got me thinking some more.

The top of the 11th fairway, on the ridge, is often windy. Especially when the wind is from down the river, from the north and northwest.

The windiest place on the planet is Mt Washington in New Hampshire. 231 mph world record gust in 1934. It's always windy there because of the topography. Which is very much like ours.

Their wind is funneled by two mountains right at Mt Washington. Bernoulli's Principle kicks in to accelerate the wind as it's funneled.

Our wind from the north is funneled and accelerates, Bernoulli again, as it goes between Storm King and Breakneck. If you've been on the river - especially in a kayak - you know how strong it can blow in the afternoon. It swoops over Constitution Island and goes straight at our ridge.

It comes up the first hole fairway and zooms over the top of the ridge, where the tent is now proposed to go.

At Boscobel, the tent is now tucked away near the trees. Nevertheless, I've been told that actors have to work a little there to be heard on windy days. A tent is a tent, after all.

But on the ridge, when the wind is howling, in those tender love scenes, to be heard, poor Juliet may have to shout,

PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW!!!

I'd recommend requiring a real wind test for this project. Mine was, as I said, informal.

2. Lower, shorter, flatter, safer, better

To avoid this wind problem, one solution would be to locate the tent in the lee of the wind, down on the 18th fairway. Visitors would have a nice, short, flat, safe walk to the nearby parking lot in what is now the adjacent 16th fairway.

That versus visitors leaving the tent on top of the ridge after the show and stumbling down the hill in the dark. A large number of HVSF visitors are, like me, of a certain age. Any geriatric care manager or social worker will tell you that inclines are dangerous, but declines are much worse. Because with them you step forward and there's nothing there. There's nothing under your foot where you think the ground should be. That's when you fall. Would there be law suits? In this country, I can't see how not.

3. Safety first

HVSF is proposing building a substantial visited site. For fifty years, since 1971, I have worked closely with the management and operational people of the world's leading visited sites, including: The Forbidden City, The Metropolitan Museum, MOMA, The Vatican, the Louvre, Versailles, the Tower of London, Windsor Castle, The Killing Fields, the Intrepid in NY Harbor, the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, the National Galleries in Washington, London and Canberra, and hundreds more.

I have designed routes for audio tours of these sites; millions of visitors have taken these tours through these sites. Not one fall yet. Visitor safety is not only crucial for my business, it is crucial for the site's. The last thing they or I want is for the word to get out on Tripadvisor and Facebook that so and so fell down – whether or not they were taking an audio tour – and broke their leg, wrist, ankle, hip, etc. It would be very bad for business. Two or three such accidents could close the place, temporarily at least. Entering this site off Rt 9 and then leaving it at night in a car is going to be dangerous enough. Please, let's not make it worse when you're on foot.

(I realize the pathways will have to be well lighted. Here, shorter paths mean less lights. Less, as usual, is more.)

4. The view and the entrance

Here again, visitor safety must be considered first.

Visitors having picnics on the ridge will have a beautiful view of the Hudson for two hours, as they do now at Boscobel. To see the show, I hope they will walk down to the tent on the 18th fairway when there is still plenty of daylight. A much safer solution.

Discussion

When a show starts at Boscobel and the actors approach the tent, it is, for my money, one of the most dramatic entrances in all of theatre. We all love it. The actors suddenly appear from nowhere, from below the horizon – first we see just their heads – then all of them – coming up towards us – walking, sometimes marching, sometimes running and dancing about. As this happens the audience first points to the actors and then goes quiet. It's wonderful.

If it's a noisy entrance into the tent with the actors all whooping and hollering, the audience applauds wildly. But at Kurt Rhoads' solo entrance at *An Illad*, the audience was silent, transfixed, from the moment they spotted him, walking steadily towards them. It was a spellbinding way to start, as was his 95 minute, one man performance. Either way, noisy or silent, these entrances from nowhere start the show on a high dramatic note.

HVSF have said they're worried about losing this view - this dramatic, up from nowhere, entrance – and that to save it the tent must be on or near the ridge.

But they need not worry. Of course they should have the same dramatic entrance on the golf course. It can be recreated easily enough on the 18th fairway. It can be done in three days, maybe two, with several large truck loads of topsoil and a bulldozer. I know because that is what Frank Batto did in 1962. He was the chief engineer for Dick Wilson, who designed the course. Frank built it. He was a SeaBee in WWII and could build anything. I worked for him in 1962 and watched him tell two bulldozer operators how to create 18 rolling fairways, tee boxes and greens, all which drain properly. Creating this view would be a snap.

In short, Boscobel's dramatic entrance can be recreated on the 18th fairway, a substantially safer solution than having it up on or near the ridge.

5. Access road

If the tent is on or near the ridge, there will have to be an asphalt access road going up to it in order for trucks and vans to deliver equipment and supplies to the tent and to the nearby concession tent and bathrooms. They would have to be up there, near the big tent.

Would it not be better for the environment to have both tents and the bathrooms lower down, on the 18th fairway, so less of the meadow would have to be black topped over?

6. Summary

My message again (I'm the carbuncle guy) is: HVSF, please, slow down and do it right. I want you to succeed.

Most importantly, instead of stumbling down the ridge in the dark and then a long walk to their cars, please give your visitors a nice, short, flat, safe walk to their cars.

If you all on the Planning Board approve the project, I hope you will steer the HVSF in the direction of safety first. It's for their protection, their visitors' protection, and the environment's.

Yours most sincerely,

Robert Cutler
Garrison, NY
rbcutler@mac.com
917 826 0826



New Recording 53.m4a
574K

CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillipstown.com>
To: Robert Cutler <rbcutler@mac.com>

Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 1:48 PM

Hello Mr. Cutler,

Just wanted to confirm I received this and will share with the board members.

Thank you,
Cheryl

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

It got me thinking some more.

The top of the 11th fairway, on the ridge, is often windy. Especially when the wind is from down the river, from the north and northwest.

The windiest place on the planet is Mt Washington in New Hampshire. 231 mph world record gust in 1934. It's always windy there because of the topography. Which is very much like ours.

Their wind is funneled by two mountains right at Mt Washington. Bernoulli's Principle kicks in to accelerate the wind as it's funneled.



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@philipstown.com>

Plans for the move of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to The Garrison and other changes there

1 message

Ned Whitney <nedwhitney@gmail.com>
To: crockett@philipstown.com

Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 9:58 PM

To The Planning Board;

As a 40+ year resident of Philipstown and a member of the board of directors of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, I am distressed at the controversy that has erupted over the proposed move of HVSF to the Garrison Golf Course, and am concerned that much of the objection to the move is based more on emotion than reality.

I understand that golfers are upset that the golf course will be closed, but after many years of losses, the owner is unwilling to continue to subsidize the course. So the course will be closed, and the obvious question is what comes next. As for HVSF, after 30+ years as a seasonal tenant at Boscobel, HVSF has to move, since it does not have the option of returning to Boscobel after its final season there this summer. The obvious question is where it will move. The answer to both questions has to be something that works for the owner of The Garrison, for HVSF, and for the community. Simply objecting to change is not enough, since change is going to come.

Replacing a failed golf course with a housing development is the usual outcome. I'm sure that very few people in Philipstown would want that, and fortunately the owner is not planning that. Instead the plan is to convert most of the existing golf course to parkland, trees and meadows, and eliminate the negative environmental impact of a golf course due to fertilizer, etc. HVSF's footprint on the 200+ acre site would be small...new structures, pathways and parking would occupy only 5 acres, in addition to the 6 acres of currently existing structures, etc. Today, none of the property is subject to conservation easements. The current proposal calls for all of it to be protected. The HVSF tent proposed for the property will not be on the top of the ridge line, as some have said, and the new tent will actually provide somewhat fewer seats than HVSF's current tent. Theater viewers have been seeing HVSF performances at Boscobel for 30+ years, and presumably the same number of people will see performances at HVSF's new, permanent home. After years of only being available to paying golfers, local residents will be able to enjoy the magnificent views from this property, and it is contemplated that the facilities, when not otherwise occupied, would be available for community uses.

Opponents of the plan are concerned that the site will turn into some sort of massive performance venue that will attract mobs of people...nothing could be further from the truth. The proposal before the Planning Board covers the next 30 years, and does include a possible small indoor venue, a possible outdoor community "pavilion," and possible in-season lodging for actors (remember, the site is already zoned for a 40 room hotel and spa, in addition to the existing 8 hotel rooms on the property), but those are all well in the future, if they happen at all. And conservation easements and other deeded restrictions will prohibit anything beyond what is approved by the Planning Board. All of this is being planned in an environmentally sensitive manner by a nationally prominent team of landscape architects who are intimately familiar with the property plus theater architects, acoustic engineers, traffic engineers, etc.

Some who object to the plan say that it will reduce the amount of property taxes paid on the property, to the detriment of the community. This may be partially true, but HVSF will continue to pay property and other taxes on the commercial parts of the property that it will control, and if the commercial aspects of the property were abandoned and the entire property was given to a tax-exempt entity, there would be no property taxes paid.

Great care has been taken in developing this proposal, both from an environmental and community standpoint, and both the owner and HVSF have made significant alterations to the plan to meet some concerns that have been raised. And the importance of HVSF to the Philipstown community should not be underestimated. HVSF has been an integral part of Philipstown life and culture for 30+ years, and its performances get national critical acclaim. It provides employment to many local residents. HVSF ticket buyers patronize local shops and restaurants. HVSF's education programs involve 40 teaching artists and reach almost 50 local schools and 20,000 students, teachers, community members and families every year (except this pandemic year). Its year round "Full Circle" program engages local residents in making theater. Those who were lucky enough to see the performance of "Our Town" in 2016, which featured local amateur actors, will remember this wonderful community event.

I would only hope that those who object to the plan for The Garrison think about what is actually being proposed, rather than objecting to what they fear might possibly happen if the myriad of safeguards that are a fundamental part of this plan are somehow evaded in the future. Personally, I think the plan is a big plus for Philipstown and for HVSF, and meets the requirements of the current owner of the property. Change is going to come to The Garrison and to Philipstown, and if it is not this plan, it will be something else. If the "something else" does not include HVSF, then Philipstown will be the poorer for it.

Ned Whitney
Garrison



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillipstown.com>

hvsf plans

1 message

Jeff Mikkelson <jeff.mikkelson@earthlink.net>
To: crockett@phillipstown.com

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 1:27 PM

Dear Phillipstown Planning Board,

As a resident of Cold Spring, a small business owner, a nature lover and conservationist, and as a supporter of the arts and lover of Shakespeare, I would like to voice my support for the plans proposed by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to relocate and create a new, permanent home at the current site of The Garrison. I've taken a close look at these plans—and read the objections raised against them in local newspapers—and have concluded that the project is sound, forward thinking, environmentally and socially responsible, and rigorously mindful of the many concerns and interests that the people of Phillipstown share. I believe it will be a boon to the community, to local small businesses and to the arts, and will lastingly protect and preserve this beautiful open space against harmful development.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Mikkelson
14 Church St
Cold Spring
646.483.3397



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

Support for the HVSF plans

1 message

Jackie Grant <jgrant1225@gmail.com>
To: crockett@phillpstown.com

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 2:27 PM

Dear Planning Board,

I am impressed by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's plans for their new home at the Garrison Golf Course and the numerous design professionals involved. I have been positive all along and assume that many others are also, but it seems we need to speak up.

1. I've lived here 35 years. I have always felt that we are privileged to have this lauded professional theater company in our community.
2. HVSF is an economic engine for Phillipstown. The financial impact on restaurants and local businesses is, I'm sure significant. I know that it gave summer jobs to my children for a number of years, and it does so for many, many local teens.
3. I am not a golfer, so I didn't often see the spectacular view but I am glad that it will be available to all theater-goers and to those, like me, who will exercise on the planned walking trails.
4. Golf courses are notorious for being ecologically unsound. They use tons of water, pesticides and fertilizer. They are a food desert for animals and pollinators. The plan to replace grass with meadows and woodlands will be an environmental game-changer.
5. The time of most consistent traffic will be later in the evening after the plays and when traffic on Route 9 is light. Plus, the number of cars won't be any larger than the number now at Boscobel as the new tent is a bit smaller.
6. The Route 9 and Snake Hill Road intersection has seen fatalities. Because of the plan, it is much more likely that a traffic light will be permitted there.
7. Live theater companies are difficult to sustain. Expenses always outpace the income from ticket sales. It is brilliant that the expense of housing the actors will be lowered by building small cabins, increasing by only 14 rooms the number already approved for that property.

With 33 years in our community the Festival is a text-book example of a "local business" worthy of our support. It is a far cry from a "developer." Imagine what a real developer would do to that property! I'm surprised and saddened by the negativity around this generous gift to our important cultural institution. I hope you will look favorably on the plans.

Sincerely,
Jackie Grant
Garrison



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@philipstown.com>

Support for the HVSF at the Garrison

1 message

Kyle Good <kylegoodnyc@gmail.com>
To: crockett@philipstown.com

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 3:06 PM

I am writing to express my support for the HVSF project at the Garrison. I have owned a home in Garrison for 30 years and have attended the festival for many of those years. While the golf course has been valued by a few, it is an environmental disaster - as are all golf courses. The new plan allows access to this gorgeous property for those of us in the community who look forward to walking on the paths and enjoying the beauty of the natural landscaping that is envisioned. Most importantly, HVSF is a TREASURE, and especially during this time when theaters and all the wonderful people who work in them are devastated by the pandemic, the fact that this company can thrive and remain in our community is a gift to us all. I welcome the move to the Garrison.

Kyle Good

[85 Lower Station Road](#)
[Garrison, NY](#)



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillipstown.com>

HVSF

1 message

Sandra Goldmark <sandratgoldmark@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 3:43 PM

To: crockett@phillipstown.com

Dear Philipstown Planning Board,

I write to wholeheartedly support the proposed move of Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to The Garrison. I write not only as a new member of the HVSF board, but as a sustainability expert with a focus on design, production and consumption, and as a theatre designer who has had the great pleasure of joining the HVSF and Hudson Valley community as a guest artist. I believe that the proposed move represents a rare opportunity, both for the arts and for the Philipstown community. Finding a permanent home will also allow HVSF to commit even further to green theatrical practices, reducing environmental impact, reducing waste, and providing a model for the American performing arts community. Approving the HVSF proposal will conserve land, reduce emissions, increase biodiversity, and create a one-of-a-kind artistic and community space in the Hudson Valley.

The three main potential environmental impacts at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's new home are from: 1. Fossil fuel consumption for on-site fuel and electricity consumption and audience and artist travel 2. Consumption-based emissions related to theatrical production, and 3. Ecological impacts from land management practices. In each of these three main areas, the HVSF move represents a significant improvement from the status quo. In terms of impacts 1 and 2 from operations, HVSF has embraced sustainability as a core value, and is taking a leadership role in evaluating and transforming standard theatrical operating practices, from the proposed designs for the new site to re-examining processes for theatrical design and production. On-site artist lodging will reduce the impacts of artists commutes. In terms of the land, it is worth noting that golf courses are typically anything but "green." Negative impacts range from pesticide and fertilizer runoff to biodiversity loss to fossil fuel consumption by maintenance operations. HVSF's proposal for The Garrison site includes returning a significant proportion of mown fairways to ecologically diverse meadows and woodlands.

Perhaps most importantly, as a neighbor and member of the community, HVSF understands that sustainable theatre is not only a question of carbon emissions or land use. Building a truly sustainable theatre means creating safe, inclusive, and enjoyable spaces and experiences for residents, visiting artists, and audiences. The long-term viability of the natural environment, the local community, and the artists are intertwined, and the HVSF proposal considers each of these factors. HVSF has proposed a plan that benefits the local community, the arts, and the natural world.

Thank you for your dedication to this process, and for your consideration of this letter,
best,
Sandra Goldmark

[Fixation: How to Have Stuff without Breaking the Planet](#)

4/22/2021

The Town of Philipstown Mail - HVSF

Sandra Goldmark

**Associate Professor of Professional Practice and
Director, Campus Sustainability and Climate Action
Barnard College**

Founder, Fixup

917-860-5546



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillipstown.com>

Letter to the Editor of the PCNR regarding the Garrison

1 message

Martha C. Howell <mch4@columbia.edu>

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 6:07 PM

To: crockett@phillipstown.com

Dear Ms. Rockett,

I sent the attached letter to the Editor of the PCNR, asking them to publish it. I am married to a member of the HVSF Board, but the opinion is my own, not his, and the Initiative was mine alone.

Thank you,

Martha Howell

—
Martha Howell
Miriam Champion Professor of History
Columbia University
mch4@columbia.edu

 **letter regarding the Garrison.docx**
14K

The citizens of Philipstown owe Chris Davis a huge debt of gratitude. Having decided that he could no longer subsidize the golf course at the Garrison, which has long been losing money and is in any case in serious need of maintenance, he could have sold this magnificent site, probably condemning it to residential development as has been the case elsewhere when golf course property is sold. Instead, he has made the decision to protect the land and simultaneously to provide Hudson Valley Shakespeare with a permanent home. A large portion of the acreage in question will be ceded to a land trust or similar entity, which assures that it will never be developed; the acreage allotted to Shakespeare will contain the existing hotel, restaurant, and wedding facilities, as well as new facilities for the theater company. Shakespeare's plans for the site, now under consideration by the Planning Board, provide ample evidence that the theater company will be a careful steward of the land. The plans include installation of a tent that has fewer seats than the one now used at Boscobel where Shakespeare has been housed for the last 30 years and, in the near-term future, a back-of-house facility to provide dressing space for actors and a box office/welcome center. After elimination of the facilities associated with the golfing operations, the plans show that the net increase in development will be minimal at most. In the more distant future and dependent on future funding, Shakespeare would like to add a small indoor theater, a community open-air pavilion and on-site lodging for actors on a portion of the property not visible from the main campus, but that will not change the character of the entire site. It will remain, for generations to come, a lightly encumbered and precious addition to Philipstown's patrimony. In sum, thanks to Chris Davis, the town will obtain a beautiful parcel of land that is protected from development and will continue to reap the cultural and, as importantly, the economic rewards generated by the theater company.

Martha Howell
Garrison, New York
April 21, 2021



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

golf course letter

1 message

Dave Llewellyn <davesllewellyn@gmail.com>
To: crockett@phillpstown.com

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 7:05 PM

Dear Planning Board,

The Garrison Golf Course is a beautiful property to walk and I am grateful to the Davis family for gifting the property to us all via the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. I recently had the pleasure of walking the Garrison Golf Course with a staff member from the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. I heard about HVSF's vision for the property and we discussed the positive and negative feedback received by HVSF following the announcement of their plans. It was clear to me that they are listening intently and addressing concerns through a thoughtful design process. They have engaged Nelson Byrd Woltz, a world class landscape design firm, in this process. If you are unfamiliar with their work, take a minute to peruse some stunning examples at www.nbwla.com. As someone who has spent 20 years working in sustainable land use, I can assure you that the vision is spot on. HVSF's new home will be an asset for our community. The performances, classes, employment opportunities and visitor experience are sure to be first rate. I am confident that their plans for managing traffic will be thoughtful and minimize inconvenience to residents.

Dave Llewellyn
Nelsonville



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillipstown.com>

The plan for HVSF

1 message

Wendy Sanderson <wendysanderson.nyc@gmail.com>
To: crockett@phillipstown.com

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 8:10 PM

We were overjoyed to hear of the plan for the HVSF. So great for the economy, vibrancy, image and community spirit of Phillipstown and Putnam County! One of the reasons we moved here several years ago was because of this extraordinary asset.

It is clear that all the parties involved are longtime good neighbors who take seriously the stewardship of the incomparable natural environment which we all treasure. In fact, it seems that much of the property will be returned to a more natural, unchemicalized state. The buildings planned will keep a low profile, SO very different from the "amusement park" detractors have characterized it as.

It would be a dreadful mistake to let this golden opportunity be squandered. If there are "tweaks" that the community board needs to make to satisfy the community's concerns so be it. But the plan largely, really should go through. Perhaps if the community could see a 3D model of the proposal, they would be more inclined to embrace it.

As usual, the nay sayers speak the loudest. We know many of our neighbors who can hardly wait for this development to take place.

We sincerely hope that you will take the challenge of embracing this exciting proposal.

Thank you,
Wendy and Allster Sanderson
32 Grassi Lane
Garrison

Sent from my iPhone



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@philipstown.com>

Support of the HVSF move plans

1 message

Andrea Wood <andreawoodartmanagement@gmail.com>
To: crockett@philipstown.com

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 10:45 PM

Just a note to say that as a Garrison resident, I am in full support of the Shakespeare Festival move and plans. Everything I've heard sounds promising for our area and I hope that the plans are approved.

Thank you,
Andrea Wood
[1140 Route 9D](mailto:andreawoodartmanagement@gmail.com)
[Garrison, NY](mailto:andreawoodartmanagement@gmail.com)

andrea wood art management
[917.846.6889](tel:917.846.6889)
awartmgt@gmail.com
andreawoodartmanagement.com



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillipstown.com>

The Shakespeare Festival's impending move

1 message

Martina Leonard <mml7@att.net>
To: crockett@phillipstown.com

Thu, Apr 22, 2021 at 5:49 PM

editor@highlandscurremt.org

Attention: The Phillipstown Planning Board

I am writing about the the Shakespeare Festival's plans to move to the Garrison Golf Course. For so many reasons, I am thrilled with the idea and can't wait to enjoy the HVSF productions there. From what I have read, the plans seem excellent, and I look forward to being able to enjoy the proposed new walking paths there too. We must keep this high quality arts venue here in Phillipstown. It provides high quality live cultural experiences to our community. It draws folks from all over the region, and the loss of that income and loss of the jobs it creates would be devastating to our community, if the HVSF has to move elsewhere. On Earth Day 2021, I applaud the plan to replace grass with meadows and woodlands, an environmental game-changer. Also, I hate to imagine what would become of this area if a developer takes over the golf course space. I live fairly close to the new venue, and I do not share the concerns that some have raised. I see it as a win-win all around.

Please vote to approve the making of the Garrison Golf Course into the new improved home of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival..

***Thank you sincerely,
Martina Leonard
Garrison, NY***

***To cherish what remains of the earth
and to foster its renewal
is our only legitimate hope for survival.
— Wendell Berry***



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

What a fantastic idea!

1 message

Vivian & Andy Rose <awr777@gmail.com>
To: crockett@phillpstown.com

Thu, Apr 22, 2021 at 6:18 PM

Dear Planning Board Members,

We are impressed by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's plans for their new home at the Garrison Golf Course and the numerous design professionals involved. We thank you for seriously considering the effect on our beautiful landscape. Full transparency: We LOVE this idea and urge you to vote YES and APPROVE this project!!

- We've lived locally for the past 12 years. We are privileged to have this lauded professional theater company in our mid-Hudson Valley community.
- It will serve as an economic engine for Phillipstown. It will give summer jobs to our grandchildren and to many, many local teens.
- We are not golfers but did have the opportunity of enjoying Garrison's spectacular view during weddings and dinners we attended. How delightful that this view will be available to all theater-goers and to those, like our family, who will savor hikes on the planned walking trails.
- Golf courses are notorious for being ecologically unsound. They use tons of water, pesticides and fertilizer. They are a food desert for animals and pollinators. The plan to replace grass with meadows and woodlands will be an environmental game-changer.
- The time of most consistent traffic will be later in the evening after the plays and when traffic on Route 9 is light. Plus, the number of cars won't be any larger than the number now at Boscobel as the new tent is a bit smaller,
- YES! The Route 9 and Snake Hill Road intersection has seen fatalities. Because of the plan, it is much more likely that a traffic light will be permitted there. *At long last!*
- Live theater companies are difficult to sustain. Expenses always outpace the income from ticket sales. It is brilliant that the expense of housing the actors will be lowered by building small cabins, increasing by only 14 rooms the number already approved for that property.
- With 33 years in our community the Festival is a text-book example of a "local business" worthy of our support. It is a far cry from a "developer." Imagine what a real developer would do to that property! What a golden, generous gift we have in our hands! A lasting legacy and an important cultural institution.
- **Make Bill Shakespeare PROUD!**
- **Please APPROVE this project.**

Respectfully,
Dr. Andrew and Vivian Rose



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

Development of The Garrison

1 message

Sarena Straus <sstraus@gmail.com>
To: crockett@phillpstown.com

Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 2:27 PM

Dear Cheryl & Members of the Planning Board:

I have loved Garrison since the mid-1980s, when I spent most of my weekends here with my high school friends. Hot summer days were spent splashing in Indian Brook Falls and sitting on the big granite boulders along the Hudson. There was even a kiss at the Gazebo on Garrison Landing (and no, I'm not saying who).

A little over fifteen years ago, when my husband and I were ready to move out of the city, I wanted to show him Garrison. Right away, this was where he wanted to live, too. As a mid-westerner, the opportunity to raise his children in a place with wide-open spaces, fresh air and friendly neighbors spoke to his roots as well.

Quickly, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival became synonymous with summer. One of our favorite things to do with friends from out of town was to take them for a picnic on the lawn of Boscobel and see a performance. Fifteen years and two children later, HVSF now gives our whole family joy. Summers, our children can't wait for the first show of the season, when we book two whole rows, have a huge, group picnic, watch the play, and have ice cream at intermission. Two summers ago, opening night of Robinhood, with real thunder as a backdrop for the scripted storm in Sherwood Forest was pure magic.

I can understand the concerns in the community about HVSF moving to The Garrison. As a resident of South Highland Road and someone who has to cross Route 9 at Travis Corners almost daily, I'm definitely anxious about the traffic. And I moved where I did because I, too, want peace and quiet and to keep our little piece of heaven as green as possible.

I moved to Garrison because I love this environment and community. I joined the board of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival because I love the festival. I consider myself to be a guardian of my home and its surrounding environment, and as a member of the board of HVSF, at no time have I found my loyalties to be in conflict. In fact, it is my belief that this gift will not only help preserve the peace and green space in Garrison, but improve it.

Golf may look beautiful and be literally green, but it is not environmentally green. Far from having a negative environmental impact, the HVSF plan will have a positive impact on the environment, not only by limiting future development through conservation easements that provide permanent protection, but also by discontinuing golf operations with its enormous adverse water and chemical impact. With its plans to restore those lands to ecologically diverse meadows and woodlands, acres and acres of Garrison land will be improved by this gift.

The limited number of seats envisioned for the new tent (fewer than are in the current tent) should not significantly increase vehicular traffic, and what increases will occur will largely be concentrated outside of rush hour. It is my hope that the comprehensive traffic study that HVSF has commissioned to study the anticipated increase in traffic will help constructively and meaningfully address the problematic intersection at Travis Corners and 9. As a member of the board, I will advocate for a solution that will improve and not worsen this condition because to do so is in the best interest of both this community and of HVSF.

Largely overlooked in the discussions about this project is what the community is gaining over and above the phenomenal theater experience that HVSF has already been bringing to the region for over 30 years. Chris Davis is gifting to this community over 200 acres of permanently conserved land of which HVSF will be the steward of about half. This is miles and miles of green space preserved for future generations of people from our community. While other golf courses around the country go out of business and are turned into massive real estate developments and shopping malls, we have been given this extraordinary opportunity to enrich and preserve our home, our landscape and our lives.

I am so grateful to Chris Davis for this extraordinary gift to HVSF and to this community. I know that it means generations of wonderful memories, like the ones I have of Garrison, for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Sarena Straus
Board Member, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
And Resident and Long Time Lover of Garrison, NY
www.sarenastraus.com
www.marcstraus.com

Don't forget to like my fan page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SarenaStraus>

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CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillipstown.com>**Fwd: Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival**

1 message

Kim Conner <KConner@philipstown.com>
To: CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@philipstown.com>

Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 5:55 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael <mmell@theaterdesigninc.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 2:36 PM
Subject: Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
To: <nzuckerman@philipstown.com>
Cc: <pplewis@philipstown.com>, <kconner@philipstown.com>, <dgagnon@philipstown.com>, <loconnell@philipstown.com>, <ntomann@philipstown.com>, <hwendel@philipstown.com>, Davis McCallum <dmccallum@hvshakespeare.org>

All:

I am writing to express my support for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's planned relocation to its new home at the Garrison. The move will continue their contributions to the community, both artistic and economic.

Regards,

Michael

Michael Mell, President**THEATER DESIGN**

48 Fair St., Ste C3

Cold Spring, NY 10516

914.588.1143

mmell@theaterdesigninc.comwww.theaterdesigninc.com

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CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

Shakespeare Festival

1 message

Marilyn Palefsky <palefsky@highlands.com>

Sat, Apr 24, 2021 at 10:16 AM

To: crockett@phillpstown.com

Cc: kilberman@hvshakespeare.org, dmccallum@hvshakespeare.org

Greetings Planning Board,

Being a resident of Philipstown for over 40 years, the Shakespeare Festival has been a yearly event enjoyed with family and friends as we planned our summers around the various performances. The new location of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival guarantees the permanency & supports the expansion of their programs which I fully support and welcome.

As a member of the Philipstown Garden Club, I applauded the festival's concern for the environment and the changes to the area such as the addition of pollinators and pathways along with the elimination of the current golf course. I understand there are concerns such as traffic which I understand living near the Bird and Bottle however I trust it will be well handled by the state.

I welcome the new home of the HVSF and look forward to the 2022 season.

Thank you.

Respectively,

Marilyn Palefsky

Sent from my iPad



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillipstown.com>

HVSF

1 message

Katherine Plummer <kplummer@highlands.com>
To: crockett@phillipstown.com

Sat, Apr 24, 2021 at 4:39 PM

Dear Planning Board Members,

We write to you because we are entirely devoted to respect for the environment. It is with this concern in mind that we write to encourage you to approve the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's proposal to make a home on part of the land that Chris Davis has wisely and generously offered. This plan limits future development in multiple ways, only one of which is discontinuing golf operations. HVSF has demonstrated respect for the environment throughout their history and the thoughtful and detailed response to the offer of the gift of this exceptional piece of land reflects that intrinsic characteristic.

With gratitude to each of you for serving on the Phillipstown Planning Board,
Yours truly,
Kathy and Joe Plummer



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and The Garrison

1 message

Loewenson, Carl H., Jr. <CLoewenson@mofa.com>
To: "crockett@phillpstown.com" <crockett@phillpstown.com>

Sat, Apr 24, 2021 at 6:24 PM

Dear Planning Board:

Please see my attached letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl (Chip) Loewenson

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14K

10 Garrison Inn Lane
Garrison, NY 10524

April 24, 2021

Dear Planning Board:

I write to express my full support for the proposed move of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) from Boscobel to The Garrison. I also fully support the careful attention that the Planning Board has given to consideration of the project. A thorough and objective review process is essential to developing public confidence in whatever decision the Planning Board makes.

My family has owned a home in Garrison for 13 years. I am a member of the HVSF board of directors. I have been a middling but dedicated student of Shakespeare ever since taking an inspiring course in college.

I want to thank Chris Davis for his spectacular generosity in conserving The Garrison for future generations. Chris has subsidized play for many thousands of golfers over the years, and I understand his decision to bring the period of golf at The Garrison to an end after this golf season.

For the many residents of Philipstown who place a high priority on protecting our environment, the conversion of the golf course to more natural habitat is an obvious plus. Golf courses require enormous amounts of irrigation and widespread application of chemicals for fertilizer and to control weeds, fungus and grubs. The required frequent grass-cutting to keep the fairways and greens in playing condition also brings out many mowers with their internal combustion engines.

I am aware of the concerns expressed by members of the community about various aspects of the plan for The Garrison, including traffic, noise, light, and building construction. Everyone should know that HVSF understands these concerns and takes them seriously. That is why HVSF has undertaken detailed studies and has presented or will be presenting thorough analyses of these issues and proposed solutions. I don't want to burden the Planning Board with summaries of the proposed approaches to every one of these issues, but wanted to highlight just one issue: traffic. My brief thoughts on the matter are no substitute for the in-depth traffic study that is being undertaken and that will be presented to the Planning Board for its consideration.

The corner of Snake Hill Road and Route 9 has been a challenging intersection for a long time. Relocation of HVSF from Boscobel to The Garrison will not exacerbate that problem or cause any noticeable impact at the two two-lane entrances to and exits from The Garrison. Keep in mind that Boscobel has only a single exit onto Route 9D. Because so many playgoers like to picnic before the play, arrivals are spread over a few hours before curtain, so there is negligible congestion prior to the plays. Traffic is more concentrated right after the play ends, but that occurs at approximately 10 pm, when there will be little other traffic on Route 9. The

concentrated exiting traffic occurs for less than a half hour and only on those nights when plays are taking place. The traffic issue is thus limited to only a small slice of time during off-hours for only a few months a year.

I want to assure the Planning Board that HVSF's heart is in the right place. The HVSF board has many members who are ardent environmentalists and conservationists. HVSF has been a strong local citizen, bringing vibrant culture and significant employment to our community. HVSF's plans for its new home at The Garrison are thoughtful, elegant, and sensitive to the many concerns that have been raised.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl H. Loewenson, Jr.



CHERYL ROCKETT <rockett@philipstown.com>

support for HVSF

1 message

John Saunders <jaysaunders1969@yahoo.com>
To: "rockett@philipstown.com" <rockett@philipstown.com>

Sun, Apr 25, 2021 at 8:15 PM

Dear Ms. Rockett and the Philipstown Planning Board,
Concerns regarding the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's proposed move to route 9 seem to me particularly misplaced.

Increased traffic? I've never had a problem leaving the Boscobel location after a show, even when the Indian Brook bridge was being repaired, and the new tent will be smaller. Further surely route 9 and an additional exit option will improve the traffic flow.

Large scale development? To my understanding there will only be an additional one of the 200-acre property that will be developed and then at some point in the future.

Access? I've always loved and considered under-rated the view from The Garrison and the golf course generally but never ventured out away from the restaurant as I'm not a golfer. Now there's not only a plan for more general access but protection of the area via a conservation easement to safeguard the landscape for all.

Upset golfers? Of course it's a loss but if the course is losing money they shouldn't expect someone to subsidize the course's existence.

We've had a home in Garrison for ten years and the HVSF was a big draw for us when deciding on a location for our home. It along with several other institutions are the linchpins of the area's cultural prominence. Chris Davis should be honored for his philanthropy with this gift to the community and the board should be welcoming HVSF's plans with open arms, recognizing it as the treasure that it is by fostering its growth.

Jay Saunders



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Proposal for The Garrison

3 messages

Fred Osborn III <osbornf@aol.com>

Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 10:42 AM

Reply-To: Fred Osborn III <osbornf@aol.com>

To: "crockett@phillpstown.com" <crockett@phillpstown.com>

Cc: "dmccallum@hvshakespeare.org" <dmccallum@hvshakespeare.org>, "klberman@hvshakespeare.org" <klberman@hvshakespeare.org>, "rsarditi@aol.com" <rsarditi@aol.com>, "annetoddosborn@gmail.com" <annetoddosborn@gmail.com>, "chris@dsaco.com" <chris@dsaco.com>

Spring Greetings, Cheryl!

I would like to submit the letter below to the Planning Board for their consideration in their deliberations about the HVSF's submission.

Thank you.

- Fred Osborn

Frederick Osborn III
P O Box 347
Garrison, NY 10524-0347
tel: 845-424-3683
cell: 914-672-391
email: osbornf@aol.com

To the Philipstown Planning Board:

I write to support the application of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to establish a performing arts campus on portions of the Garrison Golf Course property in Garrison.

Members of my family have been residents of Philipstown since the 1850s. My wife Anne and I moved here in 1987 and lived in my grandfather's house, "Cat Rock" until 2013 when we sold it. We now live on Old West Point Road West in a cottage that used to be part of the estate.

In the footsteps of the old-time "Garrison families," Chris Davis' actions echo earlier generation philanthropists who worked to improve the community with their generosity. We are immensely grateful for Mr. Davis's contributions to wise land use, protected outdoor recreation, and open space. His work has been an inspiration to others, including me, to see how each of us, with our energy and resources, can make our community an even nicer place to live and raise our children.

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival ("HVSF") has also worked to improve our community. For over 30 years, it has brought theatre lovers to the beautiful Boscobel campus, enabling visitors to revel in that venue's spectacular views and rich heritage while

providing a world-class theatre experience in its open-air tent, and enhancing the education of Hudson Valley students.

Now Mr. Davis has donated a substantial tract of land so that the HVSF might have a permanent home, free from the constraints necessary to operate as Boscobel's tenant.

A number of our neighbors have concerns about crowds, traffic, environmental degradation, parking, the loss of the golf-course, noise, and other things. Some say that HVSF will become a "major developer" and build out the property with many buildings. I respect those concerns and take them seriously. But, as with any major change to our landscapes and our lives, compromise enables progress.

I don't see a problem with crowds; crowds have been coming to Boscobel to picnic and see the HVSF performances for over 30 years. Crowds have been coming to use The Garrison's restaurant and event facilities for years. That they might, on a weekend night, be on the same campus at the same time doesn't bother me: with the right infrastructure, they, and Philipstown, can handle them.

Traffic? Boscobel has only a single entrance / exit; at least The Garrison property has two two-way entrances / exits. Getting onto the fast-moving Route 9 will be a challenge, but thorough traffic studies and road improvements are part of the plan.

Rather than environmental degradation, I see environmental improvement. Golf courses, with their monoculture of grass, huge needs for water, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer, are notoriously impactful on the ecosystem. (Some of my golfing friends remind me that maintaining a golf course does not have to be so environmentally destructive, and I agree). Re-wilding the hillsides, creating gardens and walking trails amongst pollinator plants and native trees would be a welcome and refreshing change. 88 acres of trees were felled to build the Garrison Golf Course. Wildlife and people will benefit from restoring the original habitats.

The parking arrangements that I see in the plans seem to me attractive, appropriate, and practical.

The planning board has asked that all plans – for 30 years out – be part of the HVSF's application. That makes it look as if a large construction project will be under way. If the construction of a small cottage village to house artists starts 20 years from now, I say "fine." The amount of land to be used in that cottage scheme is barely more than a few acres. Having housed actors and staff in our own home in the early days of HVSF, I know what a treat it is to have these creative people nearby.

Noise from HVSF programs has never been a problem for the neighbors at Boscobel, although there have been complaints from some neighbors in years past when Boscobel allowed loud wedding receptions. Apparently loud wedding receptions at The Garrison haven't bothered the neighbors. Nevertheless, HVSF has commissioned a thorough acoustical study for the Garrison site.

Overall, I see the HVSF proposal as exciting, bold, daring, and hugely valuable to the environment, to wildlife, and to the community. Their ambitions have been encouraged by the amazing gift of land from Mr. Davis; the project will improve the cultural and intellectual life of all of us in Philipstown. It is the kind of thing that generations of Philipstown families would have been proud to support whole-heartedly.

Sincerely,

Frederick Osborn III

PO Box 347
Garrison, NY 10524-0347
Tel: 845-424-3883
Cell: 914-672-3919
Email: osbornf@aol.com

rsarditi@aol.com <rsarditi@aol.com>

Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 11:27 AM

Reply-To: rsarditi@aol.com

To: "osbornf@aol.com" <osbornf@aol.com>, "crockett@philipstown.com" <crockett@philipstown.com>

Cc: "dmccallum@hvshakespeare.org" <dmccallum@hvshakespeare.org>, "kilberman@hvshakespeare.org" <kilberman@hvshakespeare.org>, "annetoddosborn@gmail.com" <annetoddosborn@gmail.com>

Fred, this is a wonderful letter, eloquent and persuasive. Thank you so much!!

Robin Shelby Arditi
Iphone: 917-647-9633

[Quoted text hidden]



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

Proposal to Relocate Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

1 message

James Bopp <jhbopp@gmail.com>
To: crockett@phillpstown.com

Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 1:33 PM

To the Philipstown Planning Board:

For 25 years, we have lived near the Garrison Golf Course. We eagerly welcome the prospect of relocation of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to this site.

We are also appreciative of those who have reviewed this matter and oppose the relocation. However, their objections are unpersuasive. It does not seem to us that fewer people will enjoy the great views: just the opposite - the Shakespeare audiences will introduce many to this treasured view. The traffic issues seem no more challenging for Route 9 than currently for Route 9D, and are manageable in either place. And we understand the tent does not rest atop the ridge line.

The benefits of this treasured, three decade old theatre company remaining in Philipstown are enormous - culturally, economically, aesthetically, and socially. It also brings racial and ethnic diversity to our community - helping us appreciate all the groups that contribute to and weave together our great nation. And it brings laughter, fun and mirth to our lives, which are much in need of joy these days.

An unappreciated additional asset of HVSF is their work in the schools and summer camps. We have witnessed several pro bono visits by Shakespeare players to inner City schools in Newburgh. It is breathtaking to watch the connections made by the actors to the students, and the freeing of imagination and inquiry.

We are so fortunate this treasure wants to remain in Philipstown, and that the generosity and vision of donor Chris Davis makes it possible.

Sincerely,

James Bopp and Peg Moran

128 Avery Road
Garrison, New York 10524

**CHERYL ROCKETT** <crockett@phillpstown.com>**HVSF/Garrison**

1 message

Bob Lieber <rcleber@gmail.com>
To: crockett@phillpstown.com
Cc: Bob Lieber <rcleber@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 11:55 AM

If there were ever a WIN-WIN outcome, this is it!!

The transformation of the Garrison golf course to permanent open space, with HVSF as a unique cultural amenity that economically supports the communities in which it resides, is literally a once in a lifetime opportunity.

We, as residents and as taxpayers, need to encourage our local authorities to support this extraordinary and important contribution to our community.

I first aspired to play the Garrison golf course in the early 1990s and have played here many many times (never very well!). I have been a resident of Cold Spring for almost 2 decades, and, importantly, acknowledge that the world and our place within it is changing. Unabated and uncontrolled suburban growth presents dire consequences to our open air, food and water supplies, and can lead to noise and traffic issues and overburdened municipal services like schools.

As a former public official responsible for economic development, as well as a fiduciary and board member to several park and land conservation groups, I know first-hand how difficult finding the right balance between growth and conservation can be. AND how unique the proposed solution really is. "The responsible use of land" is a hallmark of great public policy. The public land use review process plays a key role in achieving this balance.

It's never easy for people to accept change; the fear of the unknown is innate to all of us. I urge our community leaders to remember that HVSF has been a terrific community partner for over 30 years and makes immeasurable positive contributions to each of our daily lives. Any change may effect us each slightly differently but through the deliberate review process, I'm confident that reasonable people can exchange their respective views and an even better plan may result.

This proposed plan conserves the bulk of the Garrison golf course as open space forever, facilitates a unique cultural use with economic opportunities and provides huge upside advantages for ALL the members of our communities.

Improved quality of life, positive financial impact from job creation and the associated economic multiplier to our local economy uniquely combine to make Chris Davis's gift and the HVSF plan a true WIN-WIN-WIN for all of us.

Please urge your local representatives to support this plan.

Sincerely

Robert C. Lieber



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

Fwd: Calling All Community Advocates for HVSF!

1 message

betsy calhoun <marieelizabethc@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 8:28 AM

To: Chip Rowe <editor@highlandscurrent.org>, CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phillpstown.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: betsy calhoun <marieelizabethc@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Apr 25, 2021 at 7:27 PM

Subject: Re: Calling All Community Advocates for HVSF!

To: Rhonda Kay <rhonda.donohue@icloud.com>, <dmccallum@hvshakespeare.org>

community spirit

Dear Mr. McCallum,

I have read your letter urging members of the Philipstown community to write in support of your proposed move to the Garrison Golf Course property. I urge you to contemplate quite seriously the flaws in your plan.

My family has lived in Garrison for about 100 years. We have seen the changes from agricultural to summer houses to commuters to recent ex-urbanites. Values that we treasure seem to be fragile. The rural aspect - so highly praised - is under threat, as if it is merely a backdrop for individual entertainment. On the contrary, there is a strong active large number of people who cherish the rural aspects. They realize the importance of environmental stewardship.

My main concern about the development of the GCC property is just that: development. No matter how many or few acres are involved, no matter how thoughtfully you plan to construct, no matter how important you believe this project is, the land will be damaged beyond repair now and into the future. That is a huge self-regarding blow to our community.

You may not realize that open (unbuilt on) land is vitally important. It is NOT something inert just waiting for the person with "vision". If you think about the GGC land, consider the many vital reasons that land must be conserved.

Sincerely yours,
Betsy Calhoun

On Thu, Apr 22, 2021 at 4:19 PM Rhonda Kay <rhonda.donohue@icloud.com> wrote:

From: Davis McCallum <dmccallum@hvshakespeare.org>

Subject: Calling All Community Advocates for HVSF!

**CHERYL ROCKETT** <crockett@phillipstown.com>**Letter of support for HVSF**

1 message

Robert Julian <robertjulian@gmail.com>
To: crockett@phillipstown.com
Cc: Madeline <made.julian@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 4:17 PM

Philipstown Planning Board,

My name is Robert Julian and I am writing on behalf of our whole family which includes my wife Madeline Julian, and our 8-year-old twin boys.

We've been living in Garrison, NY since 2017, but we've both been very familiar with the area since the early 00's.

Through this letter, we would like to throw our full and complete support behind the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival project.

We are a family of artists. Madeline is a painter and an architect. A graduate from Pratt Institute and LaGuardia High School.

I am a musician and new media producer with both BA and MFA degrees in Film, as well as a Diploma In Film Scoring from Berklee College of Music.

The arts are very important to our family.

We are extremely proud to live in a community surrounded by arts and supporters of the arts. We love Magazzino in our very own Garrison as well as DIA in Beacon; the numerous farms that we visit often and places like Boscobel which we also support as members.

While I know that there's been some concerns with traffic, I would like to ad that we live right on 9D, which as you already know is a one lane road, and when the festival is happening we don't see any more traffic than the usual warm-weather Hudson Valley traffic that we experience all summer.

With that said, it is important to note that the new tent that will be built in the new location is actually smaller than the tent at Boscobel.

In over 33 years, HVSF has never received a noise complaint and the new performance space will actually be further removed from neighbors.

We fully support this project and urge the community to do so as well.

On a more personal level, I would also like to add that thanks to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival our kids experienced their first in-person play RIGHT HERE in our very own community.

We feel lucky to have Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival in Philipstown and will do anything in our power to support this amazing project.

Robert Julian

Dear Editor

I remember the very first HVSF summer at Boscobel. I was on the Board and had the assignment to negotiate the first lease.

The summer prior there was a performance at Manitou of Midsummer's Night Dream and the HVSF was born. The Festival grew organically and became a jewel in our community. Many of us brought our friends to experience the beauty of the river and this unique way of enjoying and experiencing Shakespeare. We were so proud.

HVSF Summer Camp was born and the educational programs soon followed. Teens were employed to sell raffle tickets concessions and usher. Year after year new performers and directors brought their artistic interpretations of the old texts to welcoming audiences. Proud of our hometown Festival the lawn of Boscobel became the highlight of summer evenings. HVSF has been woven into the fabric of Philipstown.

Now at the next crossroads can we really question the value of HVSF? The studies address all the concerns of traffic, (less) noise, environment, views and future growth.

What is not addressed is that immeasurable value of a summer evening gathering with families and friends, the joy of introducing our children and now grandchildren to the communal experience of being part of

something excellent in our own backyard.
Being an audience member is being part of
the collaborative process of creating art.
We experience human connection with both the
actors and our fellow audience members.

The minds at work and the generosity of this
gift are not to be feared but celebrated.
Dig in and understand the facts. This new
home will not hurt our hometown but will
allow HVSF to continue to be one of our
greatest assets.

Carolyn Rossi Copeland

Former Board member



CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@phlllpstown.com>

HVSF plans

1 message

betsy calhoun <marieelizabethc@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 29, 2021 at 1:00 PM

To: Chip Rowe <editor@highlandscurrent.org>, CHERYL ROCKETT <crockett@philipstown.com>, Rhonda Kay

<rhonda.donohue@icloud.com>

HVSF; THE SAD PART

Attending a Shakespeare performance at Boscobel has been a multifaceted wondrous experience. You wend over the lawns, past fruit trees, through a formal rose garden. You lug a picnic dinner (with wine) that has become quite a project. But worth it as you look out over the Hudson from your elevated site (card table or blanket). Boscobel itself stands elegant and imposing. You feel "special" to be a guest of the mansion.

The performers take great advantage of the unique setting as they open by running up as if emerging from the river marshes. The scale at Boscobel is a good match for an ephemeral fantasy: the tent, the dirt floor, using the extra space of lawns.

THE SAD PART: at the Garrison location, where you will experience a simulation of previous magic, there won't be the history, the intimate scale, the sharing of a special treasure. The ambiance is irrevocably lost.

Betsy Calhoun
Garrison