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February 23, 2021

Ms. Carol Bramley
Chair
Planning and Zoning Commission
Town of Litchfield, CT
P.O. Box 12
Bantam, CT 06750

Dear Carol:

I commend you and your Commission for taking on the job of opening the discussion on how to allow food trucks in Litchfield. The food truck has emerged in recent years as a service that has grown increasingly popular. Allowing its use in a controlled, well considered manner will benefit the people of our town, will attract people to our town, and can provide local food producers with an additional outlet to sell their products. If done correctly, your regulations will protect our town and our existing stores and restaurants from uncontrolled access while allowing our residents and guests to enjoy food in locations that are not currently served by existing businesses.

That said, on reading the proposed regulations that are due to be discussed at the hearing on March 1st, I have a few questions and comments:

Questions:

1. ¶ 1 States: *A zoning permit is not required for food vending units in residential districts involving less than three days for personal use or event.* Does this mean that if a farm were doing a one-day harvest event on its property in a residential district, no permit would be required?
2. Similarly, if a person were to rent a property from another person in order to host an event, is a permit required if the event lasts less than three days?
3. If no permit is required as per ¶ 1, do the terms of ¶ 2 still hold—ie no portable toilets or tables and chairs permitted?
4. If no zoning permit is required as per ¶ 1, is there still a limitation to one food truck?

Comments:

1. The restrictions proposed in ¶ 2 on or chairs and tables make no sense. Why would you restrict people from sitting down, especially when they're trying to eat? What do you do about people with disabilities or elderly people? Why would you make them stand because there's a food truck present? If this is a safety issue—ie not having tables or chairs in an area with moving vehicles, how about restricting the tables and chairs to lawns?

2. In the same vein, if you're serving food, it only makes sense to have toilets and hand washing stations present. If the venue is a site with no toilet facilities, surely temporary toilets are a preferable solution to no sanitary facilities. If the concern is the optics of portable toilets visible from the road, please consider allowing them if they are not visible from a public road or are screened from view.
3. The restriction on the number of food trucks should relate to the venue space and the amount of parking. Limiting the number of food trucks to one is arbitrary. If you're doing an event with hundreds of people, it will be difficult to feed all of them from one truck.

I hope that my pointing out my concerns with some of the language will not dissuade you from continuing the admirable work that you have taken on in addressing the issue of allowing food trucks in Litchfield.

I will be on the Zoom call on March 1st. I am OK with your reading this letter or calling on me to read it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Morosani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

John W. Morosani