

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021
8:00 A.M.

MEETING PLACE: ZOOM ONLINE MEETING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

8:00 a.m. Regular Session

First Selectwoman Lyons called the Regular Session of Tuesday, October 12, 2021 to order at 8:05 a.m. Also in attendance were Selectwoman Duques, Selectman Goldberg, Selectman Murphy and Selectman Wilson (via Zoom).

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectwoman Lyons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of minutes – September 27, 2021

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to approve Minutes of September 27, 2021.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

3. First Selectwoman's Updates.

First Selectwoman Lyons introduced Sheri Cote, the new Economic Development Director shared with Guilford.

4. Liaison Reports / Selectmen Comments.

None.

5. Citizen Comments.

None.

6. Discuss and take action to proclaim Wednesday, October 13, 2021 Domestic Violence Awareness Day.

First Selectwoman Lyons read aloud the Proclamation.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve proclaiming Wednesday, October 13, 2021 Domestic Violence Awareness Day.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

7. Discuss and take action to approve a Proclamation honoring Robyn Wolcott, Madison's Woman of Excellence.

Selectman Wilson read aloud the Proclamation.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve a Proclamation honoring Robyn Wolcott, Madison's Woman of Excellence.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

8. Update on Academy School Community Center Proposal.

First Selectwoman Lyons presented an overview which is attached to these minutes. Bill Stableford provided an overview of the process undertaken by the Ad-Hoc Community Center Design Committee, and First Selectwoman Lyons provided an overview of the timeline of work undertaken by the Town since the completion of this committee's work. This includes a comprehensive facilities study, and a working group to review the needs of Town departments and public space(s) in the building. Consultant, Marc Sklenka provided an overview of the plans for the building that have come from the conversations of the working group. Both Scott Cochran, Director of Youth & Family Services, and Austin Hall, Director of Senior Services and Beach & Recreation each provided overviews of how the proposed spacing will benefit their departments as well as the public. The Board reviewed the process of this working group compared with the prior Facilities Review working group and how these two groups relate. The Board had a lengthy discussion about the changes in the proposed plan being reviewed, specifically the inclusion of space for two Town departments. Mr. Stableford added that the difference between the

9. Discuss and take action to approve the inclusion of the Environmental Planner position into the Town's Classified Plan; Salary Grade 12, 35.5 hours per week. The position is funded in the current fiscal year budget. Recruitment for the position will commence upon approval by the Board of Selectmen.

Human Resources Director Debra Milardo provided an overview the process and confirmed that the salary was budgeted for July 1, 2021 however the position as held to await the hiring of the new Town Planner. The Board reviewed with Director Milardo that recruitment would begin following the approval of the job description but also that recruitment has seemed to be an issue for all towns in the state. First Selectwoman Lyons also confirmed that Guilford has a similar position.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to approve the inclusion of the Environmental Planner position into the Town's Classified Plan; Salary Grade 12, 35.5 hours per week.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

10. Discuss and take action to approve awarding the bid for the Salt Meadow Park Pavilion project to the low bidder, Suchocki & Sons, Inc.

The Board reviewed that the funding was budgeted.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve awarding the bid for the Salt Meadow Park Pavilion project to the low bidder, Suchocki & Sons, Inc.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action to approve a request from the Facilities Department to close out completed projects to the master CNRE account.

Selectman Wilson provided an overview of how funding is moved if it is left from completed projects.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve a request from the Facilities Department to close out completed projects to the master CNRE account.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

12. Update on Madison Dog Park.

Austin Hall stated that the Dog Park has been an important topic in Town for years; and Salt Meadow Park seems the most appropriate place. The Advisory Committee is also in support of locating the park there. Director Hall provided an overview of the costs needed to get this running, including the need for fencing.

13. Discuss and take action to reallocate funding from the CNRE Salt Meadow Kayak Launch fund and the CNRE Salt Meadow Fencing fund to the Salt Meadow Dog Park fund.

First Selectwoman Lyons stated that funding left over from other projects is being moved to fund this new project. Stacy Nobitz, Finance Director stated that this is not the typical process; usually the funds are moved back to the general fund such was with Item 11, however, since the line items were so similar to this new project, it makes sense to move the funds once to the new project versus moving to the general fund and then from the general fund into the new project.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve reallocating funding from the CNRE Salt Meadow Kayak Launch fund and the CNRE Salt Meadow Fencing fund to the Salt Meadow Dog Park fund; pending Board of Finance approval.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

14. Discuss and take action to approve a request from Madison Hose Co. 1 to move funds from the Capital Improvement Program year 2022-2023 to fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$100,000 for the new R2 Madison Fire Boat; pending Board of Finance approval.

Chief Kytte provided an overview of the request and why the need necessitated moving the project up in CIP. He stated that having the docking system in place shaves about 12 minutes off of response, and now that the extra space is there, the boat can be purchased. Jeff Young of Hose Company 1 provided an overview of the boat itself and why this particular boat would benefit the response of the Fire Department. This is a 30' boat and allows for a more appropriate response as well as navigates the waters of Long Island Sound better than the current 20' boat. The 30' boat was found based on the new docking system and created an increased need for funding. Selectman Wilson questioned also if the life of this 2006 boat would be sufficient as opposed to purchasing a new boat. Chief Kytte stated that he was confident that much research was done to determine that this was an appropriate choice. Also the equipment would be locked up properly and secured and may allow for the removal of the fencing at West Wharf. The Board reviewed that the project was initially included in FY 2021-2022 but it was moved to 2022-2023 based on the recommendation from the Fire Department that more time was needed to research the replacement; now the request is to move the funding back to the initial 2021-2022 fiscal year. The second part of the request is for the remaining \$102,000 to be requested through a Special Appropriation. The Special Appropriation will be funded through the Apparatus Fund, not the General Fund.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve moving funds from the Capital Improvement Program year 2022-2023 to fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$100,000 for the new R2 Madison Fire Boat; pending Board of Finance approval.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

15. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation request from Madison Hose Co. 1 Apparatus/Truck Replacement Fund in the amount of \$102,000 to fund the new R2 Madison Fire Boat; pending Board of Finance and Town Meeting approval.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve a Special Appropriation request from Madison Hose Co. 1 Apparatus/Truck Replacement Fund in the amount of \$102,000 to fund the new R2 Madison Fire Boat; pending Board of Finance and Town Meeting approval.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

16. Discuss and take action to approve calling a Special Town Meeting to approve a Special Appropriation request from Madison Hose Co. 1 in the amount of \$102,000 to fund the new R2 Madison Fire Boat.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve calling a Special Town Meeting on October 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Campus Room A to approve a Special Appropriation request from Madison Hose Co. 1 in the amount of \$102,000 to fund the new R2 Madison Fire Boat; and moving a previously called Public Hearing to 6:15 p.m. on Zoom.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

17. Discuss potential Town Noise Ordinance.

Chief Drumm provided an overview of how noise complaints are addressed currently without a Noise Ordinance. Town Planner Erin Mannix stated that other towns do have a Noise Ordinance consistent with the state statutes and DEEP regulations. Different areas of Town would be categorized based on use and different levels of noise would be tolerated at different times of the day based on these categories. The Police Department would be responsible for enforcement. Overall, whatever the Town puts forward cannot contradict state law. The Board reviewed that residents have questioned the need for an Ordinance throughout the years, but that more comments have come in now during COVID and the uptick in outdoor activities. Selectwoman Duques questioned if the Police Department would need more resources to respond to an Ordinance and Chief Drumm stated that they might but the Town should also consider that when an Ordinance exists, there must also be exemptions granted and the Town will need to create the parameters of an exemption. Chief Drumm also stated that there are requests that come in when new people move into Town and they aren't used to levels of noise. He stated that the Board should be cautious because once it is established, the Ordinance will be difficult to change. Selectman Wilson questioned if the Board could be given an analysis of the types of complaints received and the location of the complaints to determine if there is a chronic source of noise issues, or if the issues are widespread. Chief Drumm stated that most complaints center on events at two locations in Town; the Ordinance and the exemption permit might help mitigate this. The Board reviewed the need to establish regulations to benefit residents but also to balance Economic Development and not be too restrictive to businesses.

18. Appointments / Resignations:

Resignation of Danielle Butsch from the Conservation Commission.

Appointment of Richard Vancil from Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Alternate to Regular Member for a term to expire January 1, 2024.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to approve the resignation of Danielle Butsch from the Conservation Commission and the appointment of Richard Vancil from Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Alternate to Regular Member for a term to expire January 1, 2024; with thanks from the Board.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

19. Tax Abatements / Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve Tax Abatements / Refunds in the amount of \$4,330.23.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

20. Citizen Comments.

Sam Kantrow of Durham Road stated that he is against the Noise Ordinance in Madison. It is with a reasonable expectation where he lives that loud cars will be heard during certain times of the day. He added that he also lives next to a church and the services have moved outdoors and he felt they should not be restricted from worshipping outdoors. He added other examples of noise that is minimal and normal that might now be restricted. He urged the Board not to enact restrictions that might force businesses to close.

Henry M. Zachs of Mountain Spring Road in Farmington Connecticut stated that he has helped with rehabbing the property at Camp Laurelwood. He felt that an Ordinance might detrimentally impact the camp. He then read aloud a written statement that was sent to the Board (and is attached to these minutes).

Greg Beaty of Summerhill Road stated that an Ordinance provides public ally agreed-upon parameters for event planners. Madison is one of the few towns without a Noise Ordinance that pits neighbors against neighbors. When businesses change their services, such with Camp Laurelwood, it creates a problem of pitting neighbors against neighbors and the next steps would be court action since an Ordinance does not exist.

Rabbi James Green, Executive Director of Camp Laurelwood, stated that he joined the Camp in 2020 during COVID and has seen firsthand how the community works with consultation with surrounding neighbors transparently to limit noise at camp. He stated that the camp is striving to be a good neighbor. One of the things he has appreciated in working with the town is the involvement of Chief Drumm and other Police Officers who have come out earlier in the evening which feels complex when running a summer camp program that has been onsite for 85 years. The camp is a part of the community and the fabric of North Madison since 1937 and where he recognizes that there is more conversation to have on this matter, the consideration of what is temporary versus what is permanent in terms of use of subject properties should be important. He thanked the Board for allowing him space to speak and hoped that the conversation would move forward respectfully towards the businesses and organizations

Justin Murphy of Wyndy Brook Lane questioned if the referendum language for the Academy School could ask if the building could be used for Community and Other Town spaces; he just wanted to know if the Town had this flexibility. Relating to the Facilities Assessment review, he questioned if other buildings could be sold or repurposed for other use based on this new plan.

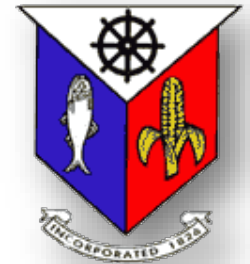
Adjournment.

There being no objection the Board adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines
Town Svcs. Coordinator / Risk Manager

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town's ADA/Human Resources Director Debra Milardo at 203.245.5603 or by email to milardod@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.



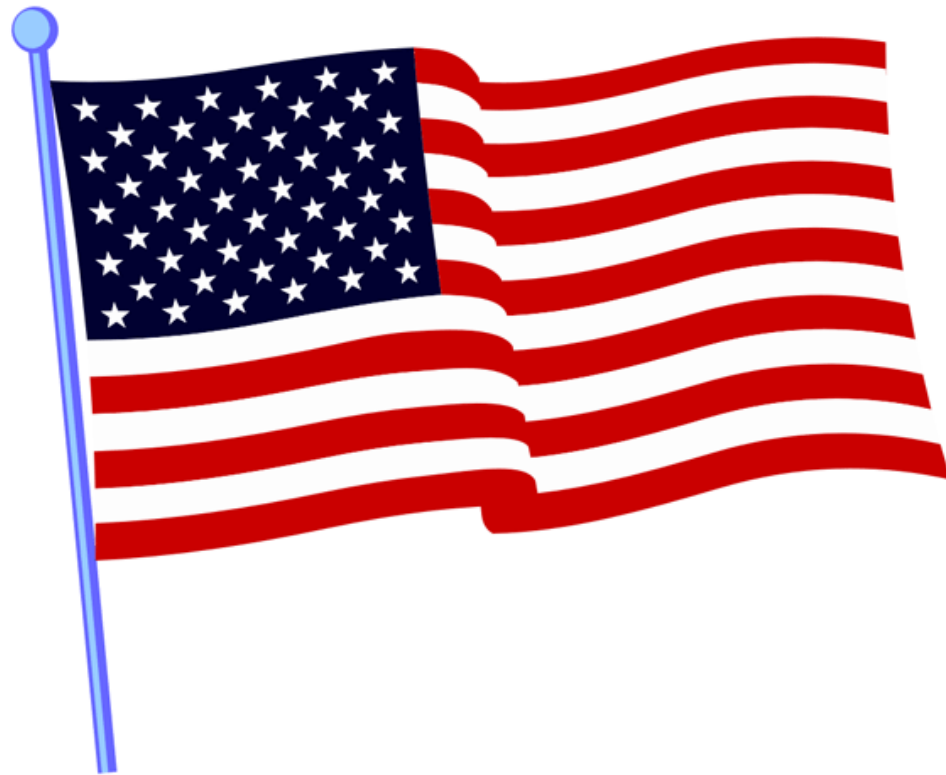
TOWN OF MADISON

CONNECTICUT

Regular Meeting – October 12, 2021

Board of Selectmen

Pledge of Allegiance



Agenda

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes
3. First Selectwoman's Updates.
4. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.
5. Citizen comments
6. Discuss and take action to proclaim Wednesday, October 13, 2021 Domestic Violence Awareness Day.
7. Discuss and take action to approve a Proclamation honoring Robyn Wolcott, Madison's Woman of Excellence.
8. Update on Academy School Community Center Proposal.
9. Discuss and take action to approve the inclusion of the Environmental Planner position into the Town's Classified Plan.
10. Discuss and take action to approve awarding the bid for the Salt Meadow Park Pavilion project to the low bidder, Suchocki & Sons, Inc.
11. Discuss and take action to approve a request from Beach & Recreation to close out completed projects to the master CNRE account.
12. Update on Madison Dog Park.

Agenda (cont.)

13. Discuss and take action to reallocate funding from the CNRE Salt Meadow Kayak Launch fund and the CNRE Salt Meadow Fencing fund to the Salt Meadow Dog Park fund.
14. Discuss and take action to approve a request from Madison Hose Co. 1 regarding new R2 Madison Fire Boat.
15. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation request from Madison Hose Co. 1 Apparatus/Truck Replacement Fund in the amount of \$102,000 to fund the new R2 Madison Fire Boat.
16. Discuss and take action to approve calling a Special Town Meeting to approve a Special Appropriation request from Madison Hose Co. 1 in the amount of \$102,000 to fund the new R2 Madison Fire Boat.
17. Discuss potential Town Noise Ordinance.
18. Appointments / Resignations.
19. Tax Abatements / Refunds.
20. Citizens comments.
21. Adjournment.

Academy Community Center...a Transformational Opportunity for Downtown Madison!

Academy Today



Academy Tomorrow!



Academy Community Center... 17 Years of Proposals, Committees, and Delays!

- **Vacated in 2004 by Board of Education, turned over to Town in 2011. Many proposals, committees & studies:**
 - Multiple conditions assessment studies from 2004-2020
 - Ad Hoc Academy Investigation Committee (2012)
 - Ad Hoc Academy Architectural Services Contract Negotiation Committee regarding Shorelines Arts Alliance Proposal (2016)
 - Academy Guidance Committee (2018)
 - Academy Community Center Design Committee/ACCDC (2019)
- **Origins of Current Community Center Proposal:**
 - Academy Guidance Committee in 2018 tasked to examine private/public options and select feasible options to bring to public poll
 - GreatBlue Research Poll conducted November 2018. Concludes majority public support for Town's continued ownership of Academy School, restoration of building as a community center, and strong opposition to sale/ development of surrounding ballfields/parkland.
- **ACCDC charged in 2019 to develop community center design proposal. Final report issued April 2019, final recommendation to BOS in July 2019**

Actions Taken Since 2019

- **January 2020:**
 - Academy Community Center Proposal adopted into Town's Capital Improvement Plan and targeted for bonding
- **February 2020:**
 - BOS adopts timeline for an October 2020 referendum for Madison School Renewal Plan and the Academy Community Center Proposal
- **April 2020:**
 - BOS rescinds proposed Referendum timeline for Academy and Madison School Renewal Plan due to COVID uncertainty
- **August 2020:**
 - BOS appoints DRA to complete Town Wide Facilities Audit and Conditions Assessment Study, including Academy School building
- **February 2021:**
 - DRA Final Report identifies space needs for town departments
- **July 2021:**
 - First Selectwoman identifies next steps to BOS to prepare Academy Community Center Proposal for referendum

Next Steps: Completed

- **Created Academy Working Group:**

 - Peggy Lyons - First Selectwoman

 - Al Goldberg - Selectmen liaison to ACCDC

 - Bill Stableford - Chair of ACCDC

 - Marc Sklenka - Colliers International, consultant to ACCDC

 - Bill McMinn - Director of Town Facilities

 - Austin Hall - Director of Beach & Recreation

 - Scott Cochran - Director of MYFS

- **Updated Project Cost Estimates:**

 - Renovation Cost increased from **\$14M (2019) to \$15M (2022)**

 - Primarily driven by construction cost escalations

 - Reflects changes to space utilization, conversion to office use

Next Steps: Completed

- **Refined municipal space needs based on DRA Final Report:**
 - Identified MYFS as primary candidate in need of improved office/programming space
 - Space needs align with 2017 consultation on MYFS facility needs and 2020 consultant study on MYFS service offerings
 - Avoids estimate \$2M + in renovation costs to modify MYFS current building
 - Beach & Recreation identified as relocation candidate to free up critical space in Town Campus for other departmental needs highlighted in DRA Report
- **Conducted community space assessment:**
 - Surveyed publicly available community space in Madison
 - Assessed quality and usage of space
 - Preliminary conclusion that community space in Town is used heavily and of good quality, but lack some amenities

Next Steps: In Process

- **Refining municipal space/programming needs:**
 - B&R Commission launched town wide survey of community programming assessment and wants/needs
 - Survey will assist in identifying gaps in town offerings and potential new opportunities for adults/seniors and youth at community center
 - Working Group to meet with community groups to refine space needs/wants
- **Identifying personnel/building management requirements:**
 - Updating previous estimates for staffing, utilities and other operational costs
- **Determining future use of vacated MYFS building:**
 - Reviewing potential options
 - Need to establish permanent Facilities Committee to make recommendation
- **Finalizing impact of bonding on tax-payers and identifying other funding sources**

Feb. 15, 2022 Referendum Timeline **DRAFT**

November 8, 2021 – BOS to review final project proposal from Academy Working Group

November 17, 2021 - Board of Finance to review final project proposal from Academy Working Group

November 22, 2021 - BOS

- i. Recommend Appropriation & Bonding
- ii. Refer to P&Z for 8-24 report

December 2, 2021 – P&Z CGS 8-24 approval

December 15, 2021 – BOF to:

- i. Approve Appropriation
- ii. Recommend borrowing to town meeting

January 10, 2022 - BOS

- i. Recommend Appropriation & Bonding
- ii. Approve Bond Resolution for Special Town Meeting
- iii. Set date of Special Town Meeting and date of referendum
- iv. Authorize explanatory text
Silent Period begins for advocacy related to referendum question
- v. Authorization of three local resolutions

January 12, 2022 - publish notice of Special Town Meeting and Referendum

February 1, 2022 - Special Town Meeting

February 15, 2022 - Referendum held

March 2022 – Building Committee established by BOS

Why a Community Center?

- **Preserves** a treasured, landmark facility and surrounding green space
- **Repurposes** a vacant, derelict building in the heart of our town, while securing it for public use
- **Provides** needed space for high quality arts, education, recreation, and cultural events
- **Offers** public access to 125-seat theater and large gymnasium for indoor concerts, meetings, events
- **Solves** space needs for some town departments while also avoiding future costs
- **Establishes** a cultural corridor along our Main Street - bookended by Scranton Memorial Library and Academy Community Center
- **Generates** economic benefits due to increased downtown vibrancy
- **Develops** a downtown hub for community programs, physically and symbolically connecting the Town green to downtown
- **Creates** a cornerstone for an historic campus linking Academy, Deacon John Graves House, Lee Academy, and Memorial Town Hall
- **Supported** by majority of residents in November 2018 professional poll

Who Benefits from a Community Center?

- **Madison Adults/Seniors**

- Arts, education, and cultural opportunities in the heart of town
- Expanded recreation activities for “active” seniors
- Commercial kitchen for classes and events
- Event space for celebrations, gatherings, civic organizations

- **Madison Youth**

- Art, theater, music, crafts, STEM classes, all in the heart of town
- Dedicated year-round Youth Center that dovetails with MYFS mission
- More gym space for recreation leagues
- Local theater for children’s theater groups
- After school activities with bus service from Greenhill Campus to downtown

- **Madison Businesses**

- Increased visitor traffic year-round due to classes, events, cultural activity
- Access to indoor event space for expos, conventions, chamber activities

Academy Community Center...Let the People of Madison Decide on It's Future!

Academy Today



Academy Tomorrow!



From: [Armand DeFeo](#)
To: [Mannix, Erin](#); [DeLaura, John](#); [Lyons, Peggy](#); [Board of Selectmen](#)
Cc: [#MIN](#)
Subject: Attention Madison Board Members
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 4:31:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

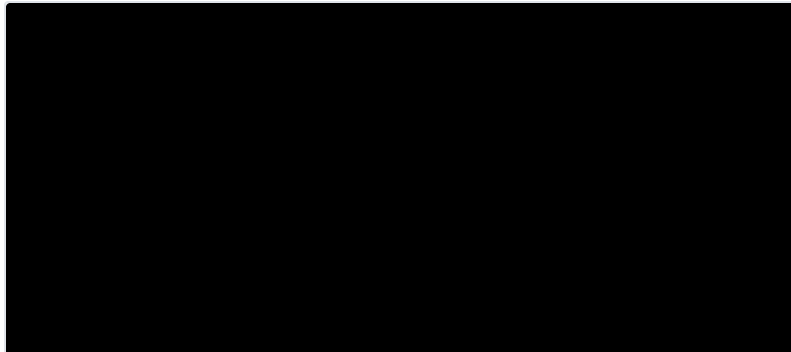
To Madison Board Members:

Our fellow Madison citizens may find this request not necessary. This is not just about the Camp Laura Wood, but we all have come across people that do not have the same consideration and values as one another. Having a Noise Ordinance in Madison keeps everyone aware, that we must respect and value your fellow neighbors.

As I mention to Peggy Lyons and presented at least 35 small to large towns in Connecticut that have implemented a Noise Ordinance and many cases been established for dedicates This minor ordinance is not a negative, but a positive that will attract potential citizens, but this ordinance will also help preserve the best town of New England "Madison' CT' for generations.

See attached Noise Ordinance from other Towns in Connecticut.

[Noise Pollution Control](#)



Noise Pollution Control

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 22a-73, DEEP reviews and approves municipal noise ordina...

Armand DeFeo
203-228-4487

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

From: [Justin Howard](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Madison Noise Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:42:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

It is my understanding that the Board of Selectmen are considering a noise ordinance for Madison and will be discussing one at this morning's meeting. I understand that this email is arriving shortly before the meeting, but please read it during the meeting, if possible.

I am a 16-year Madison resident. For most of that time, I lived in the Heatherwood neighborhood, where we were surrounded by trees. As a result, a noise ordinance was not of particular interest. However, a few months ago, we moved to a house near East Wharf beach, where the houses are in close proximity. We have been fortunate to have neighbors who are, for the most part, considerate. However, we are having 1 issue. Tuesday morning is Sweitzer trash/recycling pick up in our area of town. Today, as is the case on most Tuesdays, the truck arrived well before 6am – 5:27am to be exact. The truck beeps loudly and makes a tremendous amount of noise, which can be heard for over an hour as it makes its way around the area.

I understand that governing minor noise inconveniences – like barking dogs – can be difficult. But, surely a noise ordinance that prevents work trucks before 7am is something that could/should be considered? I discussed this with Peggy Lyons and Al Goldberg when they were canvassing our neighborhood over the summer.

Thank you for your time,

Justin Howard
860-227-7406

From: [Scott Mendlestein](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen; SLM](#)
Subject: Noise Abatement issue
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:42:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Selectmen:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Noise Ordinance for the Town of Madison. The genesis of the request for the Ordinance appears to be based on the personal motivations of one resident who purchased property next to a sleepaway camp that has peacefully co-existed with the Town and its residents for 85 years. A 24/7 decibel restriction will result in unintended consequences for the Town and its resources. Will churches no longer be able to conduct outdoor services? Will restaurants no longer be allowed to have live music for patrons? Is this the end of little league and backyard graduation celebrations? How will the Town ration its resources respond to the inevitable increase in calls for noise complaints? I write to ask the Town to refuse to entertain the proposed Ordinance.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Scott L. Mendlestein

From: [Justin Koplin](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Abatement Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:53:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am distressed at the possibility of a punitive Noise Ordinance being passed for the sole reason to interrupt operations at Camp Laurelwood. For 85 years, the camp has served the Jewish Community of Connecticut and has not altered its programming in any major way over the past decade. Why now do neighbors seek to restrict the camp's ability to serve the community?

Camp Laurelwood has been a home to generations of Connecticut and Madison residents. The camp has operated in good faith and has been a good neighbor for many years. Will all businesses in Madison be subject to this? Will we have to call the police when restaurants get too loud or play music through speakers? Could anyone call the police at any time on a business in Madison should it seem "loud?" I ask this measure to be defeated, lest a can of worms be opened that the police department is ill-equipped/staffed to manage.

Best,

Justin Koplin

--

Justin Koplin, President
APEC Paper Industries
www.apecenvelopes.com

From: [Henry Zachs](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Cc: [Henry Zachs](#); [Sam Kantrow](#); [Rabbi James Greene](#); [Leslie Iarusso](#); [David Waren](#); [Sara Gelpke](#); [connecticut@adlmail.org](#); [adl@adlmail.com](#); [Eric Zachs](#); [Justin Koplin](#); [Marci Levin](#); [Louis Lasko](#); [Michele Gottfried](#); [Ryan Loss](#); [Scott Cooper](#); [Scott Mendlestein](#); [Jason Malkin](#); [Jeff Rubin](#); [Jacob Schreiber](#); [bputterman@ctmirror.org](#); [Deborah Rothstein](#); [Laura Zimmerman](#); [David Jacobs](#)
Subject: Noise abatement. Zoom meeting at 8 am today on Madison web site
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 5:05:40 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Gentlemen:

I am opposed to the Noise Ordinance that is proposed for the Town of Madison.

It is my opinion that this Ordinance is directed against one entity- Camp Laurelwood.

This Jewish camp has existed for 85 years, without reprisals.

The effect of the Ordinance will have dire consequences on operations.

The Neighbors, who have proposed and support this ordinance, bought and built their homes with full knowledge of the operations of the camp.

Is there an underlying ugly reason for this proposal?

Please defeat this directed unfair proposed Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Henry M. Zachs
Board Member
Camp Laurelwood.

860 306 2787

From: [Joshua Erlanger](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise ordinance
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 2:22:36 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read this letter aloud at the meeting on a proposed noise ordinance on Tuesday October the 11th

Hi my name is Josh Erlanger I'm a Madison Resident. I believe a noise ordinance would be bad for the town of Madison. I have neighbors would love to sit outside and listen to music at night and I'm happy to see them living their best lives. There are children in my neighborhood who love to play basketball. I can hear every dribble in the back of my head but I'd hate to see the police called on them. I love to see people celebrating birthdays graduations and family gatherings and again I'd hate to see the police called out and ruin these important occasions because of the intolerant few.

I'm surprised to see this come up again in Madison. The residents of Madison have made it clear time and again that they don't want a noise ordinance. The only time it seems to come up is when a few residents who have purchased or built new homes on top of existing commercial entities decide that they are no longer happy with that purchase. We saw this play out with the Madison Beach hotel not so long ago.

Do to covid many activities' including dining and large gatherings have been moved outside for safety some of these like weddings were even mandated by the state. A noise ordinance would put a target on the backs of our restaurants, hotels, and wedding venues. Not to mention the strain training, enforcing, and equipment purchases would put on our police department, which should be out responding to serious issues like the resent spat of car thefts not out breaking up birthday parties.

Please don't let a small vocal group ruin graduations and birthday parties, make business even more difficult for our few restaurants and venues and over burden our police department. Vote no on a noise ordinance.

Thank you
Josh Erlanger

From: [Eric Brown](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance - Please Read Aloud During Public Comment 10-12-2021
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:49:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Noise Ordinance - Please Read Aloud During Public Comment

To the Madison Board of Selectmen

My name is Eric Brown and I am writing as a concerned citizen to express my opposition to the creation of a noise ordinance for the Town of Madison.

Though not a resident of the town, I live in Connecticut and have been a frequent visitor to Madison for many years. Over these years, I have enjoyed countless outdoor activities with friends and family (many of whom are residents of, and/or operate businesses in town) and have patronized shops, restaurants, and hotels. To my knowledge, there has never been the need for, nor a public outcry for a noise ordinance in the town until recently. Globally and locally, we have been heavily impacted by the pandemic. Moving special events as well as basic operations for many hospitality-based businesses to an outside venue these past years has allowed many of your local businesses to stay afloat. Further, it has been the safe and sensible solution in line with local, state and federal health guidelines. The damage a noise ordinance would do to local business and various organizations throughout the town should far outweigh whatever new outcry there appears to be related to noise. Should this pass, you will no doubt see a large increase in local citizens seeking to enforce their version of the ordinance, a degradation of neighborhood goodwill within a wonderful community, and countless new calls to authorities which will clearly take town resources away from much more important needs.

From a concerned citizen, my advise is that you should continue to encourage people to enjoy their own property with respect for each other, and reject the creation of a noise ordinance.

I request this message be read aloud at the Board of Selectman's October 12, 2021 meeting.

Sincerely,
Eric Brown
Concerned Connecticut Resident

From: [Marci Levin](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance - Please Read Aloud During Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:12:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Madison Board of Selectmen:

My name is Marci Levin and I am writing to express my opposition to the creation of a noise ordinance for the Town of Madison.

I have been part of the Camp Laurelwood community since the 1980's. A noise ordinance would cause many challenges as well as increase communication to the Town of Madison Police Department, taking them away from other policing duties.

Madison has never seen the need for a noise ordinance, and there are good reasons for that. Camp Laurelwood will be celebrating its 85th Anniversary in 2022 and is "home" for so many children for many generations. Camp operates during the summer season as well as holds a few functions (trick or treat events, picnics, retreats, weddings, etc) during the shoulder season. In addition, the Town of Madison chose to share some space on campus utilizing the base/softball fields. We should continue to encourage people to enjoy their own property with respect for each other and reject the creation of a noise ordinance.

I request this message be read aloud during the Town of Madison Board of Selectmen's October 12, 2021 meeting.

Sincerely,
Marci Levin

From: [Eric Brown](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance - Please Read Aloud During Public Comment 10-12-2021
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:32:22 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Noise Ordinance - Please Read Aloud During Public Comment

To the Madison Board of Selectmen

My name is Eric Brown and I am writing as a concerned citizen to express my opposition to the creation of a noise ordinance for the Town of Madison.

Though not a resident of the town, I live in Connecticut and have been a frequent visitor to Madison for many years. Over these years, I have enjoyed countless outdoor activities with friends and family (many of whom are residents of, and/or operate businesses in town) and have patronized shops, restaurants, and hotels. To my knowledge, there has never been the need for, nor a public outcry for a noise ordinance in the town until recently. Globally and locally, we have been heavily impacted by the pandemic. Moving special events as well as basic operations for many hospitality-based businesses to an outside venue these past years has allowed many of your local businesses to stay afloat. Further, it has been the safe and sensible solution in line with local, state and federal health guidelines. The damage a noise ordinance would do to local business and various organizations throughout the town should far outweigh whatever new outcry there appears to be related to noise. Should this pass, you will no doubt see a large increase in local citizens seeking to enforce their version of the ordinance, a degradation of neighborhood goodwill within a wonderful community, and countless new calls to authorities which will clearly take town resources away from much more important needs.

From a concerned citizen, my advise is that you should continue to encourage people to enjoy their own property with respect for each other, and reject the creation of a noise ordinance.

I request this message be read aloud at the Board of Selectman's October 12, 2021 meeting.

Sincerely,
Eric Brown
Concerned Connecticut Resident

From: [Lisa Harding](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance - Please Read Aloud During Public Comment
Date: Saturday, October 9, 2021 9:17:00 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Madison Board of Selectmen

>

> My name is Lisa Harding and I am writing to express my opposition to the creation of a noise ordinance for the Town of Madison.

>

> As a long-time resident of Madison, I recognize that our local community has been deeply impacted by the pandemic, as more activities are taking place at home and outdoors. The creation of a noise ordinance would hurt local businesses and venues at a time when they can least afford it, and invites neighbors to contact the authorities as opposed to working with one another on solutions to noise complaints.

>

> Our Town has never seen the need for an ordinance of this nature, and there are good reasons for that. We should continue to encourage people to enjoy their own property with respect for each other, and reject the creation of a noise ordinance.

>

> I request this message be read aloud at the Board of Selectman's October 12, 2021 meeting.

>

> Sincerely,

> Lisa Harding

> 39 Buttonball Lane

> Madison, CT

From: [Harriet Gowanlock](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 9:13:12 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read aloud at the 10/12/2021 Board of Selectmen meeting, as I'm unable to attend.

The town needs a noise ordinance because now the burden is on victims of noisy neighbors to complain to those neighbors without any standards to actually point to that the neighbors are violating.

In my neighborhood recently we have had:

- tree companies at work before 8:00 am on weekends,
- loud weddings on residential property with outdoor music,
- early and late yard and other work involving power saws and other tools,
- roofing companies who think everyone wants to hear their music blaring while they work,
- random fireworks,
- loud motorcycles in clusters,
- and so on.

Excessively loud noise and constant noise are documented health issues. While far from a complete solution, at least create both decibel limits and reasonable quiet hours in residential areas, because, unfortunately, common courtesy and common sense aren't common enough. Such an ordinance (and a couple of decibel meters for the police) would set clear and objective standards for everyone to follow.

Harriet Gowanlock
25 year resident
16 Town Crier Lane

From: [Ryan Michaels](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise ordinance
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 8:29:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

(please read aloud at meeting)

My neighbors and I have been struggling with loud music emanating from Camp Laurelwood.

For the past two summers/falls, a campground near my residence has rented space to outside vendors for weddings and other parties. The music is often thumping and literally rattles my walls while keeping both myself and young kids up.

I have purchased white noise machines, box fans, ear plugs and kept my windows shut on summer nights to mitigate the disturbances.

As for me personally, I'm often on call on the weekends and required to work late into the night or very early in the morning. So thumping music at anytime in a residential area is unreasonable. As anyone with kids will relate to; frustration is an understatement when you and your toddlers are sleep deprived.

I have approached the Director of the campground twice in person, called him and other employees of the campground as well emailed my concerns. Promises have been made, but no changes when the events are being held. My neighbors and I are encouraged (by the police department) to call the police, whilst they have no enforcement power when they go to the campground.

I've observed the police go there 3 or more times in an evening before. The music is often lowered upon police arrival and volume is increased upon their departure.

I have always been of the mindset that neighborly disagreements are not police issues. I am no longer of that assumption since my attempt to gain cooperation of my own neighbor, in person, twice, has proven unsuccessful.

I began talking to my neighbors, who include elderly and people with younger kids than I have. Many have expressed frustration with the campground's loud music. Some of whom I would like to represent because they are uncomfortable speaking out about an issue that has become quite divisive. (We were accused of anti-semitism on Facebook).

I've also spoken to others in town who live near music venues, live near Madison Beach Hotel (relating to when they previously played live music) and live near construction sites that operate after hours. I think a noise ordinance would be effective and is past due for a growing town the size of Madison. It only takes one uncooperative neighbor to make a living environment unpleasant and an unwanted confrontation more likely.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

From: [Joanne Flynn](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:28:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Madison, CT Board of Selectmen:

I am requesting the Board considering the development of a noise ordinance so Madison residents have a legal avenue to address unreasonable noise levels in neighborhoods.

Respectfully,
Joanne Flynn
486 Summer Hill Road

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Maria Infurchia](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise ordinance needed in Madison
Date: Saturday, October 9, 2021 5:11:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am reaching out to you in regards to Madison's current lack of a noise ordinance. I support the creation of a noise ordinance for the Town of Madison. I request this message be read aloud at the Board of Selectman's October 11, 2021 meeting.

Maria Infurchia
6 Godman Road Madison, CT 06443

In the neighborly spirit,
Maria Infurchia

Sent from my iPhone

From: [JAMES HYLAND](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance NOT Needed
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 7:11:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I request this message be read aloud at the Board of Selectmen's October 12th Meeting.

I do NOT support the creation of a Noise Ordinance for the town of Madison. Such an ordinance will create an unnecessary burden on our law enforcement officers. Noise complaints should continue to be resolved amicably between neighbors, as they have been for years.

James Hyland
19 Saint Francis Woods Road, Madison, CT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ryan Loss](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Cc: [Sam Kantrow](#); [Josh Erlanger](#); [Rabbi James Greene](#); [Louis Lasko](#); [Marci Levin](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance Objection
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 6:42:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Selectmen,

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the proposed noise ordinance. Camp Laurelwood has operated for 85 years in the town of Madison and has been a partner with the town on numerous occasions (i.e., sharing our facilities - baseball/softball fields). We opened our camp up to the community last year for a trick or treat even so that, in a pandemic, children could enjoy the experience of trick or treating in a safe environment. We have additionally worked to address concerns shared by neighbors, but there has been no flexibility from our neighbors with accommodations proposed.

Camp Laurelwood is a camp that operates many activities outdoors and any ordinance imposed would severely impact Camp Laurelwood's ability to operate our facility that has been the home to hundreds of children each summer. Camp Laurelwood has not changed how we operate. We have always conducted outdoor activities as that is the nature of what a summer camp does.

Those who are seeking this ordinance are a small number of Madison residents. I'm not saying this is insignificant, but I cite this as a point of reference in that a noise ordinance has not been something the town has sought previously because it is not a significant issue to the majority of residents. Camp Laurelwood has not hid it's existence, thus those who have moved in next to Camp Laurelwood did so knowing that a camp exists there. For comparison sake, those who purchase a home next to a sports arena or airport do so with the understanding that there will be noise coming from those areas. If one was unaware of the operations of an overnight summer camp when they purchased their home, this lack of awareness should not be passed on to the business in the form of a punishment that will severely impact the operations of the business.

I ask that the Board of Selectmen reject this proposed noise ordinance as it is unjust and imposes major restrictions on a local non-profit that has operated in concert with the town for 85 years.

Dr. Ryan Loss
Past President and Board Member, Camp Laurelwood

From: [Isabelle Spivack](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise ordinance proposal
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:14:37 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I support the creation of a noise ordinance in Madison. I would like to have this read aloud at the October 11th meeting.

We unfortunately have had our peaceful home in Madison affected by a neighbor's extremely and unreasonably loud music.

Attempts to work out a solution with the neighbor have not been fruitful. We eventually called the police who were unable to do much (due to there being no noise ordinance) despite telling me there were many other calls.

There has been music previously three nights in a row until 2-3AM keeping my young children and myself awake the majority of our sleeping hours. It was very upsetting.

Many towns have a reasonable noise ordinance, which helps protect the peaceful residential setting.

My hope is that a noise ordinance will be put in place to allow residents to be reasonably undisturbed during nighttime hours.

Thank you,

Isabelle

From: [Dana Horowitz](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:25:48 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Madison board of selectmen,

My name is Dana Horowitz and I am opposed to the proposed noise ordinance for the town of Madison.

Camp Laurelwood has peacefully coexisted with the town of Madison for the past 85 years. Hundreds of children have spent some of the best summers of their lives on these grounds. Camp teaches leadership skills, independence, and helps to create friendships that last a lifetime. In addition to the camp season, camp Laurelwood is used for other social events, many open to the Madison community at large, during the off-season.

A noise ordinance would greatly affect the positive impact Laurelwood has not only on their own camping community but to those who participate in the community-wide programs as well.

Creating a 24/7 noise ordinance does not seem like the best solution to the issue. We should continue to encourage people to enjoy their own property with respect for each other and reject the creation of a noise ordinance.

I request this message be read aloud during the Town of Madison Board of Selectmen's October 12, 2021 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Horowitz
Laurelwood Alumni, parent and board member

From: [Patty Mckeon](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Noise Ordinance
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 1:54:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Please support a noise ordinance that promotes a healthy environment for all in the town of Madison. It may not be big issue now for most but better to have something in place. Things like no leaf blowers or tractor mowers before 8am or after 5pm are reasonable requests. Also nuisance noise control over at a certain decibel which could be loud music, yelling and screaming, loud motorcycles and other vehicles etc are fair game since rules sometimes need to be in place when others unfortunately don't seem to respect their community.

Best regards,

Patty McKeon

Sent from my iPad

From: [Michele Gottfried](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Potential Noise Ordinance in Madison
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:42:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Selectmen-

I spent every summer of my childhood as a camper at Camp Laurelwood, later sent my own kids there, and am currently the Vice President of the Board of Trustees. With that background, you could imagine my concern upon hearing that a new neighbor to the camp has been pressing for a noise ordinance in Madison that could not only have a deleterious impact on Camp, but also other businesses in the town. Camp Laurelwood has been in continuous operation since 1937. While we have always cared deeply for the town and our neighbors, it cannot be ignored that our rights as a property owner in Madison include the right to continue running the camp. Any noise ordinance would negatively impact our ability to do that.

I would also like to point out that we have lived in harmony with our neighbors in Madison since 1937. Any prior neighborly matters have been worked out pleasantly and informally – without taking time from the town government or seeking sweeping legislative changes that would impact other residents or businesses.

We are proud to be your neighbors in Madison, and look forward to continuing to preserve the cooperative spirit that has made Madison such a wonderful place for families and businesses.

Very truly yours,
Michele Gottfried

The information contained in this e-mail message is confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, any distribution or copying is strictly prohibited. If you think that you received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy this email.

Beazley Furlonge Limited, Beazley Solutions Limited and Beazley Underwriting Services Limited are members of the Beazley Group.

Beazley Furlonge Limited (Company registration number 01893407) is a managing agent for Syndicates at Lloyd's and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Beazley Solutions Limited (Company registration number 033851561) is an appointed representative of Beazley Furlonge Limited which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Beazley Underwriting Services Limited (Company registration number 04043270) is a service company of Beazley Furlonge Limited and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The above companies are registered in England and Wales at Plantation Place South, 60 Great Tower Street, London EC3R 5AD.

From: [JEFFREY RUBIN](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Re: Noise Ordinance Consideration October 12
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:45:05 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Madison Board of Selectmen:

My name is Jeff Rubin and I am writing to express my opposition to the creation of a noise ordinance for the Town of Madison.

I first came to Camp Laurelwood in 1969 as a camper and since have been a staff member and I have now served on the Board for the past 20 years. I remember walking through the woods to 'The Country Store' when there were no houses to be seen in the vicinity. I also watched as land around the Camp was developed and houses were built so close to 'our Camp'. However, I do believe Camp has always been respectful of its 'new' neighbors, while trying to continue to provide the enjoyment to so many, both campers and staff, as has been our tradition for what will be 85 years. Each and every homeowner who purchased a home in the vicinity knew the Camp was here. We were and ARE part of the neighborhood which they decided to become part of. Our Camp operates full time for only the summer season, does a few 'happy' (weddings, etc.) events, mainly on weekends, during the spring and fall, and for the most part is closed for the winter. We are good neighbors. Please allow us to continue to do so. Any restrictive noise ordinance would be detrimental and wrong. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I request this message be read aloud during the Town of Madison Board of Selectmen's October 12, 2021 meeting.

Sincerely,
Jeff Rubin

From: [Keith Ainsworth](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed Madison Noise Ordinance
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:38:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Madison/Madison Public Schools. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Members of the Madison Board of Selectmen,

I am writing to you regarding your consideration of a local noise ordinance. I may be able to add some helpful perspective. I am an environmental litigation attorney who has a great deal of experience with common law and statutory actions involving impacts to the environment and over the last 30 years I have litigated a number of actions involving nuisance noise. I am not representing anyone and have no stake in this discussion except as a resident of Madison.

You should keep in mind that if you choose to pass a noise ordinance that it will only be effective if the Town puts in a place a clear enforcement mechanism and follows through in using it. This is because if a town has such an ordinance and then fails to enforce it, it will actually help people who create nuisance noise who can point to the town's lack of enforcement as a way of suggesting that the noise cannot be that bad. A particularly bad example was Westbrook's noise ordinance that required the Selectmen to hold a hearing on nuisance noise. The Selectmen held only one hearing under the ordinance that I am aware of and then promptly repealed it. The police will not enjoy having to enforce this. You certainly won't. *My experience indicates that it is highly politically undesirable for local officials to enforce a noise ordinance.*

On the other hand, if you do choose to craft and implement a noise ordinance, (and I'm not suggesting you do) it would be helpful to Madison residents if the ordinance only sets noise standards without a local enforcement section (with exceptions for emergency generators and lawn mowers or with hours of operation for any noisy activities e.g. - "no activities which violate the decibel levels in this ordinance before 7am or after 10pm"). This type of ordinance would set standards that citizens could use to enforce where neighbor-to-neighbor diplomacy fails to resolve the matter. But I strongly suggest not creating a system of municipal enforcement unless the town is looking for something to occupy a lot of its time.

Sincerely,

Keith Ainsworth
31 Green Springs Drive
Madison, CT 06443