

Simone, Suzanne

From: Cheshire Historical Society <cheshirehistory@che.necoxmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Ball & Socket Arts Center - P&Z Meeting Monday Feb. 8, 2021

RECEIVED
Town of Cheshire
FEB 08 2021
Planning Dept

From the Cheshire Historical Society

Comment regarding Ball & Socket Arts Center for P&Z Meeting on Monday, February 8

Dear P&Z Members,

The Cheshire Historical Society would like to share some of the history of the Ball & Socket Manufacturing Company and voice our support for this worthy project.

We need to go back 171 years to 1850 when a charter was granted to the Cheshire Manufacturing Company to be built next to the Farmington Canal. According to the 1935 book published for the Cheshire Tercentenary Celebration, this was a \$43,000 project. The company made fancy dress buttons including buttons used on military clothing in the Civil War. In 1900, the Cheshire Manufacturing Company merged with the Ball & Socket Fastener Company and became the Ball & Socket Manufacturing Company with a capital stock of \$150,000. The product line expanded from their fancy buttons to include snap fasteners for gloves and ladies' dresses.

The Historical Society museum has many artifacts from the Ball & Socket Manufacturing Company. We have thousands of beautifully made buttons as well as sales cards displaying the snap fasteners. We have photographs of employees, of company outings, newspaper clippings, ledger books and business cards. And who knew they made more than just buttons? Our collection includes pens in metal cases, ashtrays, decorative disks, paperweights, belt buckles, doll furniture, and Christmas decorations. We even have some of the original light fixtures from the factory floor. In the past months, the daughter of a former employee sent us a holiday wreath that her mother had made constructed with hundreds of surplus buttons she found on the factory floor.

The Ball & Socket Manufacturing Company was part of so many households even fifty years ago. Our long-standing Director, Lois Van Almkerk of Wiese Road, said her brother Warren Van Almkerk worked at Ball & Socket, recalling how much he enjoyed working at this company. Jessie Durand, one of the Durand Family vaudeville entertainers whose home was on the site of the new Town Hall addition, was also employed at Ball & Socket. The Durand Family book by Sterling Jewett captures some of her career in the bookkeeping department at Ball & Socket. Anyone over a certain age in Cheshire certainly may remember a relative or friend who worked at this company.

A company that has had such an impact on our Cheshire Community for such a long period of time deserves – no - **NEEDS** to be honored, preserved, and once again become a vibrant center in our town. The Cheshire Historical Society applauds the renovation and plans for the Ball & Socket Arts Center. We look forward to a time when this Arts Center draws people from all around us. We hope to see television stations, such as Fox 61, put the Ball & Socket Arts Center on their Connecticut Bucket Lists or equivalent listings as “must see” places to go visit in Connecticut, in New England overall, and we hope, nationally.

We are especially impressed with this group's efforts to preserve history. One of the principals, Ilona Somogyi, is our Society's Assistant Curator and we value her input and expertise.

We suspect the Ball & Socket Arts Committee is making a significant mark in our local history now as they go forward with their plans.

Along with their preservation goals, Ball & Socket Arts would boost our local economy with the addition of jobs, an increase of tourism, and further build our reputation as an active and dynamic cultural center.

It would be outstanding if for the 400th Anniversary of the Settlement of Connecticut in 2035, that Cheshire could offer the Ball & Socket Arts Center as a viable site for state-wide celebration activities. The 1935 CT Tercentenary activities were a big deal and towns were vying for recognition and selection. Let us get this up and running so we have something impressive to offer for Connecticut's next big milestone.

We would ask the Planning & Zoning Commissioners to do everything possible to guide and support this worthy project.

Diane Calabro, President, and the Board of Directors

The Cheshire Historical Society, established in 1951

43 Church Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410

Thank you,

Diane Calabro, President
The Cheshire Historical Society
43 Church Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410-3104

"We Keep Cheshire's History Alive!"

Tel: (203) 272-2574

www.cheshirehistory.org

You are receiving this e-mail because you are a Society Member, you have asked for information, or we are querying you or your organization about a matter related to Cheshire history or our house museum. If you do not wish to receive our e-mails, please reply and we will take you off our list. Please add our e-mail to your contacts, if you have not already done so as we hate being spam. If this e-mail was forwarded to you, please reply so we can send you a membership application.

February 7, 2021

Planning & Zoning Commission
Town of Cheshire
84 South Main Street
Cheshire, CT 06410

Attn: Mr. William S. Voelker, Town Planner

Regarding: Ball & Socket Arts, Inc.
493 West Main Street
Modification of Special Permit

Dear Planning & Zoning Commission Members:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the current application of Ball & Socket Arts' Phase I development. I believe in the organization and its goals of bringing together the arts and commercial aspects, as originally intended and approved by the Commission, to create a true treasure for the Town of Cheshire, region, State, and our citizens.

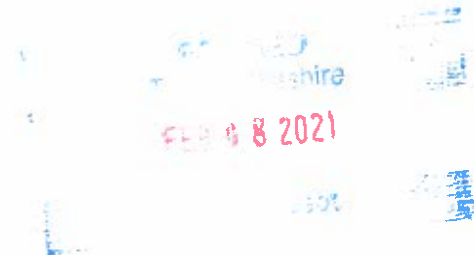
Ball & Socket Arts is a unique and special site, deserving of rehabilitation and restoration, so that it can be brought back to life as a community asset. It will serve as a Town hub for the arts, providing educational and performance opportunities, and it will be the anchor of a revitalized West Main Street.

This first phase is a practical one, and one that will bring local business to the site, as well as excitement! It will allow initial commercial and arts use, as Ball & Socket Arts continues to work on improvements to the site.

I strongly urge the Planning & Zoning Commission to approve the Ball & Socket Arts Phase 1 plan. This is the next step in making the goals a reality and enhancing the community in the process.

Sincerely,

Paul Thornton
Cheshire resident since 1980



February 7, 2021

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Town of Cheshire
84 South Main Street
Cheshire, CT 06410

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Planning Dept

Attn: Mr. William S. Voelker, Town Planner

Regarding: Ball & Socket Arts, Inc.
493 West Main Street
Modification of Special Permit

Dear Planning & Zoning Commission Members:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the current application of Ball & Socket Arts' Phase I development. I have been a volunteer at Ball & Socket Arts for several years and am now a Board member. I strongly believe in the organization and its goals of bringing together the arts and commercial aspects, as originally intended and approved by the Commission, to create a true treasure for our Town, region, and State and our citizens.

Ball & Socket Arts is a unique and special site, deserving of rehabilitation and restoration, so that it can be brought back to life as a community asset. Not only will it serve as a Town hub for the arts, providing educational and performance opportunities; it will be the anchor of a revitalized West Main Street. As you know, in addition to space devoted to the various facets of the arts, Ball & Socket Arts will bring commercial businesses to the site. There is great interest by many parties in making this happen!

This first phase is a practical one, and one that has been well thought out and designed to consider the nature of this special site, along with insights and improvements recommended by Town officials. It will allow initial commercial and arts use, as we continue to work on improvements to the site holistically.

I strongly urge the Planning & Zoning Commission to approve the Ball & Socket Arts Phase 1 plan. This is the next step in making the goals a reality and enhancing our community in the process.

Sincerely,

Regina Thornton
Cheshire resident since 1980

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Town of Cheshire
FEB 08 2021

Planning Dept

Planning & Zoning Commission
Town of Cheshire
84 South Main Street
Cheshire, CT 06410

Attn: Mr. William S. Voelker, Town Planner
Email: (Comments@cheshireCT.org)

Re: Ball and Socket, Arts, Inc. 493 West Main Street Modification of Special Permit

Dear Commission Members:

We are writing this letter in support of the Ball and Socket Arts project and current application for the Special Permit Modification. Ball and Socket will be a stimulus to our town that will be welcomed and widely embraced. Ball and Socket is positioned to move ahead with the support of this commission.

Ball and Socket is set to capitalize on what will be a post virus world where people are going to want to come out and enjoy their community in person. Ball and Socket will give Cheshire a walkable, bike-able, artistic and commercial downtown.

Support of Ball and Socket will ensure that Cheshire has the opportunity to have a collective historic jewel that we all can be proud of. Ball and Socket has a rich history in town, preserving it shows our commitment to the town's distinctive historic character. The economic and cultural benefit of this project will allow Cheshire to create an enduring showpiece.

The support of this commission and the town leadership will be valued by the volunteers and donors in Cheshire and beyond who have driven this project to present. The undersigned and I ask you to approve the Modification of Special Permit for Ball and Socket Arts so that the project can maintain the momentum we all have worked so hard to achieve.

Gregory Wolff
842 West Main St. Cheshire, CT 06410

Dr. Richard E. Lau (member Board of Directors)
239 Jinny Hill Road

Joseph Ajello
772 Mountain Rd

Judi Riccio
16 East Ridge Court

Robyn Housemann
802 Cornwall Ave

Patricia Hartmann
414 Patton Drive

Judith Andrews and Tony Falcone
634 West Main Street
Cheshire, CT

Gary Richards
West Main Music Academy, 470 West Main Street
67 Diane Ter Waterbury, CT

Cara Jordan
480 Main St
South Meriden, CT

Elizabeth Pratt Fox
135 Oak Avenue

Stephanie Vasiljevs and Scott Kellerman
170 Scenic Ct Cheshire CT

Breina Schain
62 Hilltop Road
Cheshire, CT 06410-3644

LaVerne and Bill Pawlak
415 Wiese Rd Cheshire CT

Joel Renker (Member Board of Directors)
118 Eastgate Dr
Cheshire, CT

Kim Wantroba
61 Blue Ridge Circle, Cheshire, CT

Patti Flynn-Harris
360 Carlton Dr
Cheshire, CT

A.Fiona Pearson
100 Strathmore Drive, Cheshire CT

Sharon Bergamo (Member Board of Directors) 103 Glenbrook Dr., Cheshire CT	Gabrielle Tougas 38 Currier Way
Tracy Peters 50 Mountain Road, Cheshire, CT 06410	Jim Jinks Bike Cheshire 244 Academy Rd
Teresa Twomey 670 Cornwall Ave	Marshall Robinson 937 Prospect Rd.
Deb Kaszas 432 Oak Avenue	Tracy Ajello 1157 Tucker
Aleta Looker 139 Cook Hill Road, Cheshire, CT	Karen Gionet Zentek 783 Ward Lane
Tony and Kate Cianchetti 87 Glenbrook Drive, Cheshire, CT	Elizabeth Sullivan 1840 Old Waterbury Road
Csilla Somogyi 764 Bethany Mountain Road	Svetlana Vassilieva 575 Cook Hill Rd.
Ron Bergamo (Member Board of Directors) 103 Glenbrook Drive	Mike Pontecorvo 187 Lincoln Drive
Agnes Wnuk 1075 Marion Road	Doug and Liz Levens 72 Chipman Drive
Carlos Wells (Member Board of Directors) 1715 Hartford Tpke, North Haven, CT	William and Jennifer Covitz 756 N Brooksvale Road
Anthony Carter (Member Board of Directors) 93 Williams Rd, Cheshire	Neeru and Prasad Sureddi, 259 Woodpond road
Kevin Daly (Co Founder) 60 Gunntown Rd, Naugatuck	Nichol Peco 954 olt drive
Eric and Deborah Carson 359 Wallingford Road, Cheshire	Francois Tellier 772 Mountain rd.
Heather + Matt Fitzgerald 168 Nob Hill Road, Cheshire	Tony & Liela D'Agostino 329 Greenwood Drive
Rita Paradis 150 Fairway Drive	Ann Marie Hearn 25 Warren Street
Joy VanderLek 160 Brook Lane	Colleen Fitzgerald 635 Alpine Drive
Irene Margary 535 Wood Hill Road	Jose Rodriguez Rodriguez Archives LLC 470 West Main Street
Karen & Mark Schnitzer 18 Currier Place	Matthew & Emily Bendedetto C&M Cheshire Properties LLC 470 West Main Street
Joan & Dennis Pilarczyk 131 Cornwall Avenue	Janet Edwards 147 Old Towne Road

Tatyana & Andrei Adlianitski
440 Sharon Drive

Luz Hotaling
400 Sheridan Dr

Becky and David Cavazuti
10 Arrowleaf Court

Deb Lasher
35 Brentwood Drive

Edward and Susan Metcalf
8 Inverness Court

Marian Ghaly
60 Prinz Court

Christy Tomko
490 Chestnut St

Jack Tomko
490 Chestnut St

Ginger Chicos
29 Stony Hill Circle

Jodee and Rich Heritage
120 Richmond Glen Drive

Al and Mary Wolff
131 Waverly St

Natividad J Carter
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