

April 19th, 2021

To the Town of Barrington Board of Selectmen,

This letter is in reference to my neighbor, Robert Russell, located at 99 Tolend Rd, who is appearing before you regarding his business. I am located at 59 Tolend Rd, 4 houses away, and have lived there since 2019.

I appreciate the respect Rob shows to the neighborhood in several different ways.

There are 11 different home-based business with visible signage located on Tolend/Greenhill Rd between Hwy 202 and the Barrington county eastern line. They range from a small farm operation, machine shop, mechanic, landscape, and several other businesses. The vast majority of them have equipment all over their front yards, and a generally very unkempt appearance.

Rob keeps his property and home very well maintained, and aside from a professional sign at the driveway, you would not realize a business is located on the premises. Traffic flow down Tolend Rd is never affected because he courteously directs his clients to park on his property in a very orderly manner.

I am very thankful that Rob respectfully keeps his property well-manicured, as I cannot say the same for the vast majority of business sharing the same road.

Coming from a family with an extensive military and public service history, I am thankful to have men like Rob providing employment and mentorship to local veterans.

These men and women he employs were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for you and I during their time in the service, and many will bear the wounds, dismemberment, and disablement from that selfless act for the rest of their lives. The department of Housing and Urban Development project approximately 40,053 homeless Americans are veterans, with disabilities afflicting well over half of them. Rob gives these veterans a place where they can provide for themselves and their families, helping to make a difference in our community by preventing homelessness.

By employing members of our community, Rob is actively pumping hundreds of thousands of dollars into our local economy, contributing to the high employment rate we enjoy in Barrington, even as we've seen hundreds of thousands of small business close across the country since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have national guidance from the White House and the CDC to provide support and resources for the tenants in our community to prevent them from being evicted even if they do not pay their rent or utilities due to the current environment.

With this national directive across America, I find it astonishing that the town of Barrington is seeking to shut down Mr. Russell's business on May 16th. This would effectively eliminate these veteran's employment and shut off the flow of payroll dollars that fund mortgages, utilities, taxes, and dozens of other businesses in our community. It seems like a very short-sighted and irresponsible reaction by our elected town officials without consideration to the broader ripple effect that would instantly impact our community.

In conclusion, Rob has been an outstanding neighbor, and his business provides a great benefit to both our community and our citizens.

It is my request that Mr. Russell be provided an emergency stay order to allow his business to operate as it normally does until his new retail location is completely built out.

Thank you for the consideration.



Respectfully,
Jeremiah Conrey

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LAND USE OFFICE