

Packet Addition #2

From: [Al Herceg](mailto:Al.Herceg@peninsulatownship.com)
To: planner@peninsulatownship.com
Subject: Public Comment on Special Use Permit (SUP) #135 for Hawthorn Vineyards
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 3:18:38 PM

Randy Mielnik, Township Planner, Peninsula Township

Peninsula Township is holding a public hearing on SUP # 135 on February 24, 2020. Since I will not be able to attend the hearing, I am submitting the following comments OPPOSING SUP #135, and request that they be entered into the public record.

I am the Retired Assistant State Conservationist, with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and I was also the Program Director for Farm and Ranchland Protection Programs for the State of Michigan. I had the privilege and opportunity to direct Federal Funds to Peninsula Township for their (PDR) Purchase of Development Rights program. Consequently, I am very familiar with the Agricultural policies of the township and their efforts to preserve farmland and open spaces.

I have been a resident of Peninsula Township, at 9343 Rolling Ridge Dr., since 2010. Our home is directly opposite the Hawthorn Vineyard entrance off Montague road. Since that entrance has been added, my wife and I have experienced first hand, the impacts that have occurred from the addition of the entrance road to a quiet residential neighborhood. The noise, the increased traffic and the property damage from vehicles making u-turns and ruts on our property when they miss the entrance, is now prevalent every year when the vineyard is open.

I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to the proposal for the SUP #135 by Hawthorn Vineyards for the following reasons:

1. This proposal goes against the township principles in the Master Plan and what has been supported by resident surveys.

As proposed, the planned activities will disrupt the QUIET ENJOYMENT of the adjoining neighborhoods during the day, evening and night time hours. It would also INCREASE TRAFFIC on neighborhood roads and CONCENTRATE TRAFFIC during night time hours.

2. This proposal goes against the township principles of preserving Agricultural Land and Open Spaces.

The proposed building of an outdoor pavilion, parking spaces, service roads and additional restrooms will REMOVE LAND THAT IS CURRENTLY DESIGNATED FOR AGRICULTURAL USES by the township zoning plan. Buildings will ELIMINATE ANY EXISTING OPEN SPACES. Also, this activity would CONFLICT with the township's definition of Agriculture land as PREDOMINANTLY FOR FARMING PURPOSES. In addition, these structures, as proposed, are NOT CUSTOMARY OR ESSENTIAL TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OR A FARM PROCESSING FACILITY.

3. This proposal is in direct violation of the township's current regulations for this Agricultural Zone.

According to Article VI of the Zoning Districts, Maps and Schedule of Regulations, Section 6.7.2, paragraph 19(a), "ACTIVITIES SUCH AS WEDDINGS, RECEPTIONS AND OTHER SOCIAL FUNCTIONS FOR HIRE ARE NOT ALLOWED".

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request that this proposed SUP #135 for Hawthorn Vineyards be DENIED. A denial is necessary to maintain compliance with the township's Master Plan, it's Farmland and Open Space policies and ordinances and the regulations of the Zoning Ordinance for Agricultural lands.

Alan Herceg
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