

Packet Addition

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David D. Taft
952 Neahtawanta Road
Traverse City, Michigan 49686

April 15, 2021

Susan Shipman Chair
Planning Commission - Peninsula Township
13235 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686

Dear Ms. Shipman:

I am writing to you in that I will be unable to attend the Public Hearing #2 for SUP#118 Bonobo.

I am concerned about the expansion of Bonobo, again, not respecting the viewshed on which they built their winery.

In their initial planning for their winery, they presented -- to an earlier Planning Commission and the Township Board before approval -- their SUP proposal. Their plan as noted at that time was to build on the existing ground level of the viewshed---as many members of the Planning Commission and the Township Board expressed concern about their building in a designated viewshed---rather than elsewhere on their property. After approval, Bonobo recontoured the land where the winery building is located making it equal or higher than Center Road---an increase in recontouring that raised the building elevation by about 10 feet. This was not in the original SUP approved by the township. Next, a year or so later they came with Mansfield, as they have done with you with respect to the pergola, and admitted that they built the building over 20% larger than the one approved in the original SUP. They were chided by the Township Board and apologetically said it would not happen again. It has with the pergola that now sits in the ag zone. In a Facebook video where Mr Oosterhouse is advertising liquor cocktails -- not approved in the Bonobo SUP---you also can see a canopy of lights over the new tasting and small plates area bordered now by the illegal pergola. This expansion with the pergola is on ag land and was not brought to the Planning Commission for review. It was just built illegally on agricultural zoned land.

When is the township going to punish Bonobo for its continuing violations? When they were fined years ago in Grand Traverse County Court for three operating violations, they regretfully said they would be more careful in the future. Instead, they have continued to operate in violation of their SUP. We the residents remember the attempt to meet the farming requirement of their SUP with a pumpkin patch, and we are all familiar with the white trucks importing California and Washington wines to Bonobo.

Now, they want to expand with a concrete walled addition and a large warehouse - both visible from the road and in the viewshed. Why are they not building completely out of view somewhere else on their property instead of in the viewshed? I urge the Planning Commission to not approve this addition and ask them to move it elsewhere on their property. Moreover, they should be warned not to create more exterior entertainment space bordered by the pergola as visible in the Facebook video. Even better, we believe they should remove the illegal pergola.

Sincerely

David D Taft