

From: [Tyler Ricks](#)
To: [Zoning Board of Appeals](#)
Subject: Old Mill Grocery
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To Whom it May Concern,

We live on Burnham Hill in the Compo Hill area, less than 1/2 mile from Old Mill Grocery & Deli.

We are writing to support Old Mill and Romanacci in their efforts to gain approval for the picnic tables, the gelato cart and the liquor license.

Old Mill and other local shops serve as community gathering spots and provide easy, convenient options for the residents. As a Compo resident, we see tremendous value, so much so that we enthusiastically donated to the cause to keep this rare gem in our community. Beyond the Compo Community, OMG&D serves the broader Westport Community as they come to the Old Mill/Compo area to enjoy the beach area and recreational facilities.

I've been the CEO of a 1200 store restaurant chain and I understand how difficult it is to make a small, seasonal location profitable. The proposals by Old Mill are essentially to ensuring that we maintain an operator for the OMG&D, thus maintaining the long-term viability.

What is troubling is that many of the things that OMG&D is seeking approval for have existed on the premises or in the immediate vicinity in the past. All of the residents in the area knowingly purchased their properties in close proximity to the beach and this operating storefront.

The noise from the beach, the foot traffic, the constant construction and the cars is far greater than anything from OMG&D. In fact, sitting in front of OMG&D, more often than not, the ambient noise is not even from the restaurant patrons, but from the beach or people walking/riding on Hillside. Large groups walk, run and bike the Compo area regularly and we accept the noise everywhere except at Old Mill?

The new operators, Romanacci, are incredibly professional and respectful of the community. There is one thing that I know for sure from operating restaurants, you will never please all of your customers and you will never please everyone in the community. That is a given. However, if this was the criteria then we would never approve anything and our communities would be devoid of the gathering spots that provide valuable services and build communities.

In terms of the liquor license, from what I have seen, Romanacci has gone above and beyond to ensure that they are taking the necessary steps to safeguard the community while providing a convenient service to the community. I bought three bottles of wine there this weekend, not to consume in the vicinity, but to bring back home (more convenient than driving to the Post Road). The owners went out of their way to thank me because it significantly helped the viability of the restaurant, which was having a slow day due to the weather.

We fully support OMG&D and Romanacci in their pursuit of the permits that will ensure Compo and Westport residents will continue to enjoy this important service, ensuring that a few neighbors cannot unwind services that have been provided for decades.

Respectfully,
Tyler and Brianna Ricks

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