

From: [Anthony Ruggiero](#)
To: [Lisa Edelson](#)
Subject: FW: 2018 farmers market permit
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 12:41:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Anthony J. Ruggiero, M.P.A.

City Administrator
City of Beacon
One Municipal Plaza
Beacon, New York 12508
Ph: 845-838-5009
Fx: 845-838-5012
www.cityofbeacon.org
aruggiero@cityofbeacon.org



From: Randy J. Casale
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 2:19 PM
To: Anthony Ruggiero <aruggiero@cityofbeacon.org>; Nicholas M. Ward-Willis <NWard-Willis@kblaw.com>; Beacon City Council <CityCouncilBeacon@cityofbeacon.org>
Subject: FW: 2018 farmers market permit

For your information

From: Phil Ciganer [<mailto:phil@townecrier.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 11:41 AM
To: Randy J. Casale <mayor@cityofbeacon.org>
Subject: 2018 farmers market permit

Dear Mayor Casale,

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to improve our city. I know that involves balancing a lot of competing interests.

I am writing in the hope I can enlist your help with regard to a problem that developed regarding the Farmers Market on Veterans Place. I originally felt this was a good idea based upon representations that the market would feature local produce only. I support local farmers and, in fact, use many of their products at the Towne Crier. What developed, however, was a situation where the market included products and attractions that compete with businesses on Main Street (including my own) instead

of drawing more business to them.

As I said, when I was initially approached, I felt that bringing attention to Veterans Place would be beneficial to the city of Beacon, since there has been some talk over the years of converting that street to a pedestrian mall with benches & plantings, which I feel is much needed to accommodate the influx of weekend visitors. As it turned out last season, instead of a farmer's market selling local produce there were also vendors selling such items as hummus, shish kebobs, baked goods, pickles in brine etc. Are these food items prepared in local kitchens that are inspected by NYS Department on Health? There were also vendors selling hula hoops, candles and other items that have nothing to do with a farmers market. More importantly, many products offered --including all those mentioned-- are currently available from businesses on Main Street. Furthermore, these are all cash transactions at the market, and I question their tax and sales tax contribution to the city. These and other concerns were also expressed to me by other Beacon merchants who do contribute to the tax base.

In addition to non-local businesses directly competing with local businesses, there were also live bands playing through a sound system facing the windows of the Cafe that are normally open most of the season. This is also at a time when the Towne Crier is serving brunch with live acoustic & jazz music -- something we are known for and use to attract customers inside.

The area surrounding the market, including parking, is also congested with vendor trucks and vehicles on the same day when the adjacent parking lot is already crowded with a flea market. Our staff has actually complained that, when they've shown up for work in the morning on farmers market day, at times they are unable to find a parking spot since the parking lot is full of vendor trucks, vans and cars. I'm sure the Towne Crier is not the only business suffering this problem.

There were also inadequate sanitary facilities causing many to come in to the Towne Crier Café after consuming vendor food & drink to use our facilities, which we keep clean and maintain for our patrons.

Even though I'm fully supportive of bringing more attention to the city of Beacon, I feel that this is not the best location for this type of expanded market. Perhaps one idea would be alternating the farmers market with the flea market -- one on Saturday and the other on Sunday; or possibly using a more suitable location for the flea market, such as the DMV parking area.

Beacon is primarily a weekend destination; and that's when merchants like myself count on generating enough revenue to stay in business. The form that this farmer's market has actually taken siphons weekend business away from local establishments rather than bringing it in. This is the sentiment that has been expressed to me by other merchants on Main Street as well. Perhaps it goes without saying that we are the ones who do contribute to the local tax base.

I'm sure this was possibly meant to boost local business; but, I have to say that all it

has done for me is have non-patrons come in to the Town Crier Cafe to use our bathrooms, sit at our outdoor tables and eat their prepared foods from market vendors, and at times leave their trash behind.

It would be unfair to subject the established tax paying merchants in the vicinity to a repeat of the disruptive experiences of 2017.

Therefore, I would like to request that the 2018 season permit for the farmers market on Veterans Place to be reconsidered and revoked.

Respectfully,
Phil Ciganer
Towne Crier Cafe
379 Main Street
Beacon, NY 12508
www.townecrier.com