



# Town of Readfield MAINE



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## Submission information

Form: [Public Comment Form](#) [1]  
Submitted by Anonymous (not verified)  
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### Date

September 6, 2021

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### My meeting, public hearing, or general comments are for:

Planning Board

### Date of Meeting or Hearing (if known)

### Agenda Item or Issue (if known)

Mill Stream Barn

### Your Comments

Dear members of the Planning Board,  
I would like to propose some thoughts regarding the Mill Stream Barn. From listening to the meetings held so far, it seems that parking is a major issue, so here are some ideas for solutions. I imagine most of the events would be quite small with an occasional gathering might be well attended.

1. The Barn is located right behind the town hall. So can the 16 approximately parking spaces at the Readfield Town Hall be used for overflow in the evenings or weekends when it is not being used?
2. Patrons of The Barn can also park along the north side of Main Street like they do for Fire Station and Library functions. From our house at 1163 Main St the corner here are about 15 spaces, and even more going as far as the library. With just a short walk on the sidewalk to the trail, they can arrive at The Barn safely.
3. For a bigger event, there can be a shuttle van that can go from The Barn to Maranacook High School I would like to compare it to the Barn at Silver Oaks (BASO) in Winthrop at the intersection of Route 41 & 133. I recently attended a function there in the for Travis Mills Foundation, and it was beautiful and spacious, but the BASO is even more limited in parking spaces than are proposed at The Barn. Guests were shuttled in vans for the event to and from the Winthrop High School, which

is even farther than from The Barn to MHS. It worked very smoothly and eliminated any congestion at that busy intersection.

All over town, businesses and non-profit organizations are challenged with inadequate parking. That clearly was witnessed at nearly all venues during Heritage Days. But wasn't it great to see so many people out and about socializing and supporting the town?

Another concern is "Will events at the Barn create too much noise?"

We have lived diagonally to the Emporium for 20+ years. In all that time, I don't recall any time when there was excessive noise, loud music, or any other kind of disturbance whatsoever. I was not a frequent patron, but it was a nice place to gather for good atmosphere, great food, and nice music on occasion. It was also one of the few successful businesses we have had. Thank goodness for the Readfield Market and the Weathervane. In the surrounding areas of Manchester, Winthrop and even Wayne new small businesses are opening and thriving. Now it is another constant reminder of the decline of business in downtown Readfield and at the Depot. Of course I believe the town ordinances must be followed, and the Planning Board has the job to enforce that. You have a difficult job to do.

Bob can be a very polarizing person. In his passion to create a place in some unorthodox ways, and his actions have terribly divided this town. Today we have an existing barn that is just sitting there deteriorating, I hope the town can come together with some kind of acceptable use for it. Our town needs to heal. If the town can mend this very long and painful division in Readfield by allowing some way that The Barn can be used with proper guard rails in place, it would be a giant signal that Readfield is a friendly town that is open for business.

Why is the Barn needed locally?

Sadly, we have found out how damaging isolation can be for teens during the Covid shutdown. We are fortunate to have a fabulous arts program at MHS, but in the summer months that is closed. For those that are not involved in sports, there is very little available over the summer for teens to occupy their time in a positive way. The Barn can be a great gathering place in the summer for teens to enjoy their passion and talents in music and the arts when the school is not in session. The same can be said for our senior citizens. Unless people are involved in the schools or local churches, the biggest opportunity to run into neighbors is at the Post Office and the Transfer Station. Our town can offer so much more.

Respectfully,  
Carol Doorenbos

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