

From: Community Pollinator <communitypollinatorzzz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 4:29:20 PM
To: Bernard Dennler <BDennler@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Tiffany Quinn <RecDirector@colchesterct.gov>; Joseph Leone <Jleone@ColchesterCT.gov>; Tim Angell <tangell@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up- request to reserve Town Green

Hello to All!

Thank you for your email response. In short, here's the overview history which may be helpful:

Years ago when the market first moved to the Green, we paid a fee of \$25.00 per day to rent the Green. This was the not-for-profit fee. All other users paid \$50.00 per day for use of the Green. During Art Shilosky's term, we changed the business structure of the farmers' market to an LLC status, mostly for insurance reasons. We then agreed to pay \$50 per market event and have been paying that fee ever since. It was also during Art's term that Tiffany came aboard to head up the Recreation Dept.

Last year, the fee structure changed to a resident vs. non-resident fee structure. I called Tiffany about this to discuss what this would mean for the farmers' market and how this doesn't even really apply to the farmers' market since the event is not a resident or non-resident. Clearly the market is tailored to Colchester. I then followed up with Andreas.

This resulted in a meeting with Tiffany, Andreas and I who all met in the First Selectman's office last year prior to market's start to discuss the fees and other Town Green questions I had. Andreas told me that we could stay with the \$50 fee indefinitely, but would need final approval from the BOS. The three of us made a plan for this to go on August's BOS meeting agenda to make the change permanent. In short, this never happened and here we are again close to market season with questions about the fee structure. Our budget was created long ago and our expenses already accounted for. These additional monies now being requested were not planned for. Even though we do have an LLC, we do not profit from this event. We cover our expenses with the goal of breaking even to offer this event to the community.

We are now in our 15th year of Colchester Farmers' Markets!

I am asking that this issue be added to the agenda and addressed this Thursday, May 16th at the BOS meeting. It would be so very helpful in our yearly planning process if we knew we had a consistent fee structure that also kept the market affordable for our vendors, while simultaneously bringing folks from all around Connecticut to Colchester. My request is this fee be made permanent so that it is not an area of concern every single year.

Thank you again for your time and efforts.

Jess Stone
Market Master
Colchester Farmers' Market
Community Pollinator, LLC