

To the commissioners:

My name is Brenda Stocks, 385 Bolton Road.

I believe this application should not be approved because it does not meet the criteria for a special permit under Zoning Regulation 17.3.1.2 which states, "It shall be compatible with neighboring uses."

When my brother, Stephen Marcham (former Mayor of Vernon), realized he was losing his battle with cancer a year ago, he requested that he be buried in Valley Falls Cemetery. He chose that cemetery because of the serenity found there. The wildlife, the quiet surroundings that meant so much to Steve will be gone forever if a rock concert venue is approved next to the cemetery.

My husband and I also own a plot in that cemetery, chosen for the same reasons Steve and his wife chose theirs. A cemetery is a sacred place, and to violate the tranquility one expects to find there is offensive. When I spoke with Alan West at the cemetery office in mid-January, he knew no more about the proposed venue than he had read in the local press. In other words, no one from the town administration had told him to advise anyone purchasing a plot in Valley Falls Cemetery that they could have a rock venue as an adjoining neighbor. I find that very troubling.

I am also concerned that without enough police to patrol the area the cemetery may become a gathering place for people who decide to attend the concerts without purchasing tickets. The applicant's acoustical expert stated that "The simulated concert sound test was detected at locations to the south of the stage area (Valley Falls Road)." The sound in that area will make it an attractive spot for concert goers. Is the town prepared to cover the cost of possible vandalism?

This application also violates Section 22-a-69-2.3 of the Regulations of CT State Agencies which prohibits excessive noise in areas "where human beings sleep or areas of serenity and tranquility that are essential to the intended use of the land." Therefore, the application must be rejected.