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www.abundancenc.org

Cultivating and celebrating resilient community

220 Lorax Lane #5 · Pittsboro, NC 27312 · 919-533-5181

May 17, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

I have been a chatham county resident for over 20 years. I've been a small business owner, helped found Chatham Marketplace Cooperative and also began Abundance NC, a non-profit focusing on local food, renewable energy and community. I've been very active here and I love this community.

I first worked with Briar Chapel when we approached them about supporting our new grocery store coop. They were happy to purchase blocks of ownership shares to give out to their new residents as they moved into the community. This was a perfect way to welcome people into the community of Chatham while at the same time giving some financial assistance to the new co-op. We were very appreciative.

Later down the road as we were getting the Abundance Foundation started we were beginning a local food and sustainable agriculture festival, The Amazing Pittsboro Pepper Festival. With the help of Briar Chapel, we took it from about 40 people to over 2200 this past year. We are planning our 10th Pepper Festival and will keep Chatham County at the forefront of Sustainable Agriculture in the nation. We are known for our local food, small organic farms and of course peppers!

It not only took money, but expertise and I'd like to recognize Briar Chapel and Newland for :

Supporting what they believe in

Doing what they say they are going to do

Offering not only funding, but guidance and other ways of helping

Introducing their residents to all the cool things happening in this county.

They not only support The Abundance Foundation but the Arts Council, Triangle Offroad Cyclists, local businesses and the Chatham County Schools.

Another project Briar Chapel helped with was bringing in local celebrity chefs to work with the lunch staff in all 17 schools and create new better tasting and locally sourced lunches. Briar Chapel was crucial to getting this off the ground and all 9000 of our chatham kids were better off because of it! (not to mention the staff and administration).

Again, I'd like to say that Briar Chapel and Newlands' has been a very good corporate citizen to this community and I hope you will take that into consideration when reviewing their plans.

Tami Schwerin on behalf of Abundance

The Abundance Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 20-4327530

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local food ● renewable energy ● community