

## **Paul F. Hannah, Jr.**

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*11 Shagbark Place      Wilton, CT 06897      phone: 203-762-9951      e-mail: pfhannah@gmail.com*

June 15, 2021

Wilton Zoning Board of Appeals  
Att: Michael Wrinn, Town Planner  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

Ref: Wilton Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting June 21, 2021  
Agenda Item B 4: Wilton Congregational Church Emergency Generator

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals:

I write in support of the Wilton Congregational Church's application for variance of Section 29-4.E.5 to permit installation of a generator with appropriate screening on its site at 70 Ridgefield Road.

The Church itself predates the town, having been established in 1726. The sanctuary on the site dates from 1790. Of course in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there was no electricity, nor central heating, nor indoor plumbing. And, of course, no need for a generator. Indeed, in the early years the Church and the town government were one and the same and the building was also the Town Hall.

Now the Church facility has expanded, with many activities beyond regular Sunday services. Recent storms and electrical system failures have severely impacted activities at the Church as well as those of almost all Town residents. To help with this, the Church proposes to install an emergency generator, which will allow the Church not only to continue its operations without interruption but also to offer emergency accommodations for all townspeople.

The men (and surely in those days it was only men) who secured the land parcel and built the Church in 1790 were conservative with congregants' funds. Thus, they acquired just enough land to accommodate the building proper plus space for horse-drawn buggies. The result is a plot which will not allow a generator without a variance from the post-1792 zoning regulations.

As the generator will operate only in emergencies and its noise will be muffled through fencing, it will not be a nuisance to the neighbors. And because it will be completely screened to comply with Historic District preferences, it will not detract from the appearance of the site.

I therefore urge you to approve the requested variance.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Hannah, Jr.  
11 Shagbark Place, Wilton