



The Mather Homestead Foundation
19 Stephen Mather Road, Darien, CT 06820
Matherhomestead.org

September 8, 2022

To the Darien Planning & Zoning Committee,

The Mather Homestead Foundation looks forward to hosting our fourth “Fall Harvest Festival” on property on Saturday, October 22, 2022. We welcomed the community for the first three festivals in 2017, 2018 and 201 and then took a hiatus in 2020 due to covid. This past year, we took part in the celebration of Darien’s Bicentennial on Saturday, October 23, 2021 with activities that included a reenactment of the 1781 raid by Tories of the Mather Homestead as well as a battle reenactment by Connecticut Fifth Regiment. Over 300 people attended the event between the hours of 2 and 4 pm.

Our fourth “Fall Harvest Festival” will welcome families for good old fashioned fun. We expect to have animals on property for a “petting zoo” which would have been typical of an old farm, a hay ride (tractor pulling trailer with hay bales) which will stay on the West side of the property (not on public roads), crafts for kids, and other fun. We expect strong attendance at this event, similar to prior years. Our current restrictions limit us to 150 people on the property and we are looking for an exception.

Details as follows:

- Timing: October 22, 11 am to 2 pm at the Homestead; rain date: October 23.
- ~300 attendees spread over three hours. **This is consistent with past events when we also obtained an exception from P&Z.**
- Parking will be in the field on the northeast side of the property. We have successfully used this area for parking for each of the prior Fall Festivals.
- We will hire a police officer to help with parking and will also have volunteers on site to help guide cars. I have reached out to Rick Labella at the Police Department who is preparing a letter regarding parking management.
- No tent on the property.
- Food sales on property. There will be no food trucks, but we will have a few stations with food such as ice cream, donuts and perhaps one or two other items. We are not serving meals, just snacks.

We hope for a favorable response and thank you for your consideration. I am available at (203) 228-4881 or heatherraker@matherhomestead.org to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Heather Raker
Executive Director
The Mather Homestead Foundation