

Hi everyone,

This hearing is about my plan to build a structure on my own property that meets all of the town's ordinances as well as my easement holders stipulations to conduct land conservation demonstrations and workshops and to benefit the community most particularly children. For many years I have held agricultural workshops, dance events, musical events and literary gatherings in my house and barn. I think having a separate building on the ranch to hold these events would be an improvement on standing room only at my house, and the sometimes coldness and draftiness of my barn.

My vision statement which accompanied my CUP app filed on March 19th of this year explains how and why this project was conceptualized. After a brief intro I will turn over the mic to Cheryl Cox Prez of the BARTsC for details about the arts in Boulder, Andy Rice, my ranch manager for details of our regenerative ag program, and finally to Elizabeth Julian our Boulder Elementary teacher for details of how this venue will provide benefits for her students.

Boulder has been a center for arts and agriculture since its founding. Doyle Moosman's loom, on which he created his beautiful rag rugs was hauled to Boulder on the back of a mule in 1890. Doyle told stories of riding over the mountain on horseback to attend dances in Teasdale at its community cultural center which is currently being restored. I learned to dance to country music with LaFair Hall which was like floating on air. The band producing the music was composed of locals. Dance continues to be an important part of the community with on site dances provided both by and for the community. This tradition is carried on by our local musicians The Salt Gulch Allstars and the Patrick Briggs Band and many others.

Visual arts were present in the early days when LaRae King painted cows, arches the toadstool and the Woman on the rock spied as you came into town. That tradition is carried on today by artists such as Scotty Mitchell, Amy Woodbury, Anselm Spring, and Spike Ress to name but a few of the artists who are working or have worked in Boulder.

Boulder also has a literary tradition. LaFair's wife LaRena wrote beautiful poetry in the back of their store. The King sisters wrote books and distributed literary newsletters. Today, Dianne Oberhansly a Flannery O'Connor award winner has organized a writers' group comprised of 10% of the town. In the fall Boulder hosts the Cliffnotes Writing Festival founded by Cheryl Cox.

Cattle ranching was once the main occupation in Boulder and a few farms continue that tradition, but In addition, Boulder has become a center for regenerative agriculture, rotational grazing and vegetable production with a lively farmers' market and farm to table restaurant. The best corn I ever had nearly 36 years ago was grown by Loren Moosman, and turned out to be Silver Queen which is still my favorite. From the beginning Families raised their own livestock for sustenance and sale, created quilts and canned vegetables.

All of these traditions still resonant today.

My vision is to provide a venue for all these segments of our community to work together, to have a space for the arts to share workshops and music and literary events, and for local farmers to learn about opportunities for grants and loans from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and to share ideas and farming techniques, as well as to have a space for Boulder to once again have a 4-H Program. It is not intended as a tourist venue any more than my house and barn were tourist destinations. Its purpose will be to provide an all season, welcoming, comfortable space for locals to gather and share knowledge, laughter and come together for the benefit of our community.