

June 8, 2021

Re: Letter of Support for Brine Oyster Bar Variance

To members of the Zoning Board of Appeals:

We are writing this letter of support for Nancy Caswell's variance application to the Zoning Board of Appeals for Brine Oyster Bar.

As residents of Newburyport, we were certainly drawn to the beautiful architecture and care that has been taken with the Business Overlay District. As residents of the South End who have often frequented and supported Nancy's restaurants during the pandemic, we have observed how responsibly she has conducted business for those able to support her businesses during the pandemic. We see proprietor Caswell as a valued business owner who has taken care to keep within the town's character with everything she's done.

Nancy and her team have committed further to the town by recently making an investment to refurbish and reuse an empty business space for Brine Oyster Bar. The results have been fantastic and in keeping with the overall character of the street. We believe the downtown district will benefit greatly from this new and exciting project.

We hope that the Zoning Board will grant the variance requested by Nancy and Brine. We understand it's in the nature of the ZBA to move forward cautiously with zoning variance requests. But the requests being made seem to be exactly what variances are for: supporting a trusted, long-time business person who has improved the town, is committed to retaining the character of the town as intended in the District, and is requesting modest variance changes. Had someone new arrived in town without the history of commitment and trust, we would still want the ZBA to consider the requested variance on its merits, but when dealing with someone like Nancy, the ZBA should be able to take her character and track record into account.

We are very glad that Nancy was able to maintain, and re-establish Brine Oyster Bar, during this particularly difficult economic time for restaurateurs. We hope you can support her variance so that she can operate her business in a way that's consistent with her vision as well as the need for safe spaces given our experiences with the pandemic.

Sincerely,


Tripp Peake and Janet Daisley
3 Beck Street, Newburyport