

Good morning committee chairpersons and members. My name is Matthew Ruddy and I am the Banquet manager at The Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station and a resident of Haddam. I was first introduced to this ownership group almost 5 years ago to the day. Then I was a sophomore in college looking for a great summer job. I spent months as a laborer, simply hammering nails and hauling drywall. I was given the opportunity to interview with the banquet manager a few weeks before their grand opening. They brought me in and gave me a position as a banquet server. After two and a half years in this position, with great support and continuous emphasis on the importance of my development from the managing partner Jim Bucko, I was given the opportunity to accept the lead banquet captain position. After serving and learning in this position for 14 months I was shown another opportunity for personal growth and growth in the company. At 25 I accepted my first ever management position as the Banquet Manager of the Riverhouse. This ownership's commitment to their employees, their management and to their families is second to none. It's a rare thing these days to be able to say that I have a personal relationship with every partner and their families. I am proud to be a member of the Riverhouse family and I am proud to be a member of the town of Haddam. I firmly believe that this land swap will not only create jobs and revenue for this community, but it will also give the 22 year old woman or man a bright future. This is what this ownership has consistently done for me and for that I am forever grateful. I understand the priority of the partnership to secure this land to not only to ensure the land around their business is in their control for development but to further grow their business and to continue to provide jobs and careers, just like they did for me.