

Comments - for Town Board Meeting 4/15

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To: Mark Witmer <supervisor@townofcaroline.org>

Cc: Kurt J. Jirka <kjj23@cornell.edu>; tim murray <timm750@gmail.com>

Dear Caroline Town Supervisor:

I am unable to attend the 4/15 Town Board meeting, but submit this comment regarding the Local Law Providing for a Moratorium on Actions Subject to Site Plan or Subdivision Review for a Period of One-hundred Eighty (180) Days. As appropriate, please share during Privilege-of-the-Floor or please record in the Town Board meeting record:

Although I am unable due to a work commitment to attend the 4/15 Board meeting and speak during Privilege-of-the-Floor, I am expressing my support for the Moratorium on Actions Subject to Site Plan or Subdivision Review for a Period of One-hundred Eighty Days. Enacting such a moratorium will allow the Planning Board to complete the Town of Caroline Comprehensive Plan, an important document and framework for guiding, in a logical approach, the future of the Town of Caroline. The Comprehensive Plan will provide guidelines for safe and appropriate commercial, agricultural, and residential development in the Town of Caroline that considers the safety and well-being of the residents of the Town.

Time is of the essence, given the apparent interest of a commercial retail business to propose a development to be situated on the south side of Rt. 79 just east of the intersection with Landon Rd. That stretch of the Rt. 79 highway is notorious for drivers speeding, even above the area's posted 45 MPH speed limit. Further, the proposed site is on a slope of Rt. 79, and very near a distinct curve in the road. All of these factors contribute to unsafe conditions in which to have a mix of high-speed traffic while other cars are either slowing (on a curve) to enter a retail parking lot, or emerging from the parking lot (with impaired visibility) onto high-speed Rt. 79. The Landon Rd.-Rt. 79 intersection is already precarious, with visibility hampered in both directions (east and west) when on Landon heading either north or south. Visibility to the west is hampered by the rise in the road. Visibility is hampered to the east by the curve in the road coupled with the rise in the road. Adding the precariousness of retail traffic to this mix has the potential to endanger the safety and welfare of Town of Caroline residents as well as others traversing that portion of Rt. 79. The Town Board would be derelict in its duty not to pause to allow the Planning Board to progress on the Comprehensive Plan and provide guidelines for appropriate siting of businesses and commercial development that integrate safely with the topography, thoroughfares, and other characteristics of the Town of Caroline lands and roads to protect the safety of its citizens.

Thank you,

Barbara Knuth
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