

Town Clerk

From: Dan Villanti <dev25@cornell.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Town Clerk; Mark Witmer; Review_Board
Cc: John Fracchia; Cal Snow; Irene Weiser; Tim Murray
Subject: Feedback on Moratorium

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as a homeowner and member of the Town of Caroline community to request that you pass the moratorium on commercial development until the Comprehensive Plan is revised such that any future development is aligned with the current vision and values outlined therein.

Despite the abundant choices of where to live, I chose Caroline explicitly because of its rural character and lack of commercial development, especially retail stores. My property is in direct view of the proposed building site, and not only am I concerned about the disturbing impact that noise, lights, and traffic will have on the peacefulness of my residence, I am also seriously concerned about the likely decrease in value such a retail establishment would incur on my property.

In addition to this personal plea, I do not believe this kind of development is aligned with our community vision of preserving rural views, being environmentally responsible, and promoting locally-owned small businesses. It is well-known that large corporations have negative effects on local business and offer low wages, competing with living-wage job opportunities that would otherwise strengthen our community. Why would we invest in a company that sells low-quality products manufactured overseas by exploiting an impoverished workforce and polluting the environment? If we are to develop this land commercially, why not build something that promotes our local agricultural products and encourages investment in the local economy? We can do better.

Lastly, with the ongoing shutdown of Town Hall and other public meeting places due to the pandemic, a moratorium is more important than ever because a large part of our community may not have an opportunity to provide their feedback. It is no secret that broadband internet access is scarce throughout Caroline, and if the only safe way the people can be informed and voice their opinion is online, inequities are created for those who do not have such access. These inequities are dangerous for the democratic process and must be considered as part of your decision.

I strongly urge you to consider the impact to our community and to pass the moratorium on development until the revised Comprehensive Plan can be used as guidance for future projects. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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