

Town Clerk

From: Evelyn Weinstein <myisland3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Town Clerk
Subject: halt on proposed construction of commercial building

Dear Planning Committee,

I am only recently learning in greater depth the details about the proposed Dollar-Store-style commercial construction project in Caroline. As such I would like to express deep concern about this plan. Furthermore, I strongly urge the Town to halt any forward momentum on this project. There are so many reasons to be cautious about such projects.

For environmental reasons, a commercial project will likely impact negatively the area's watershed flow, biodiversity, as well as disrupt natural patterns of movement and ecological activity for organisms in or near the proposed site. Green space is a fragile and continuously diminishing commodity. Sustainability drives the preservation of such space. Commercial projects such as the one being proposed would, based on the existing evidence, not value this precious resource of the Town of Caroline.

For social reasons, a project that relies heavily on the priorities of those whose livelihood is built in settings far from the here will be assumed to place their own interests over those of our local community, and thus should be denied. While some interests may well overlap, the greater good over time will clearly favor those stakeholders who do not live locally. The negative impacts of such a project to the local rural character of our landscape will impose minimal sacrifice for the owners of this business, and maximal sacrifice to our town's precious rural character.

For economic reasons, this project should not be permitted as it will be driven by financial opportunities for a population that is frankly, "away", and not fairly benefiting our local community. The proportion of economic gain which trickled into Caroline would be far less and far more unbalanced than if this were some thoughtful and sustainable commercial enterprise that was owned and operated by local stakeholders with local interests.

For the reasons above and many others I don't yet know about, I urge you to place a moratorium on this project and suspend all commercial building activity for the next 180 days.

Thank you for your efforts to preserve the town we love.

Sincerely,

Evie Weinstein

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