

4/13/20

Town Council Members,

Thank you for including me on this list. I regret being unable to attend the Board meetings due prior commitments. I have signed the petition only to further discussion by the Town Council. I have some questions and ideas to share.

I'm grateful that the Town Council is running public zoom meetings. I'm concerned that there are people in Caroline without adequate bandwidth to participate via Internet or cell.

Since 2006, when I arrived here, property use issues in Caroline have been contentious revealing an apparent socio-economic divide in our community. Could this be another such issue?

We have known for years that Caroline is ripe for a "dollar store".

Rita, I understand that you and your neighbors on a beautiful quiet road have concerns about commercial development changing your view shed and traffic patterns. Many of us have had concerns about an increase of commerce and traffic on our roads.

What has the community impact been in Enfield and Trumansburg from having a local Dollar General?

I know that Walmart and Amazon prey on their employees, and that the owners are mega-wealthy. I boycott Amazon based on my ethics. I am sensitive to my privilege that allows me refuse to shop at Walmart where the prices are low. It is privilege that allows some to afford to buy quality fresh & local foods that are not produced in factories by international corporations with globally sourced GMO & non-organic ingredients using close to slave labor, or cheap plastic goods made in China.

I wish it were our Reuse Center expanding into Caroline.

If we protest against a Dollar Store are we forcing our financially disadvantaged neighbors in Caroline, Danby, Richford, and Berkshire to drive far to get things they can afford? These are the people who need our food bank, who have to use the busses, who cannot afford to insulate or put in green energy heating systems. As the numbers of poor folk escalate nationally due to harmful national policies will we see more people unable to afford quality goods?

Does a local discount store decrease the carbon footprint of neighbors who have to shop at discount stores?

When doing a search for 'dollar stores preying on the poor', most stories were of urban food deserts. One mentioned rural settings might be an exception because it provides local access. Dollar General has huge growth plans and can out-compete the traditional mom & pop stores.

New construction possibilities in Caroline exist along a continuum. There were concerns about fracking infrastructure establishing facilities that entailed heavy equipment and toxic materials traveling along Hwy 79. Dan Klein says we could get heavy traffic and 24/7 noise from a hemp drying facility. A local branch of the Ithaca Free Clinic might be a possibility on the opposite end of that continuum.

Would a Dollar Store be in the middle of that continuum?

I would enjoy dialogue, questions and answers. How do we best be a loving community? We cannot have perfection, how can we make fair choices that benefit as many as possible, and harm the least?

In community,

Janice Burton