
POCD meeting

From gerry freedman <gmfreedman@gmail.com>

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To Land Use <landuse@salisburyct.us>

This is in response to the request for comment at the September 30 P&Z meeting concerning the POCD. While the Report is obviously a well thought through and serious set of proposals for the Town, it appears the Committee is still relying to a large extent on the Colliers Report which, in my view, makes an effort to remove a sense of rural from our Town. It also appears to rely on an effort to increase automobile traffic and give us broad swaths of new paved roads and parking. To me this is truly unfortunate.

As a start, paving a road off Library Street to the Pope property is not a good idea as it would also flood the village with traffic beyond intruding on the Rail Trail. A better idea might be to create a pedestrian walk across the brook and give easy access to shopping in Salisbury Village. It would also allow for the Rail Trail to remain a rural and active Town amenity, even with some better grading and access.

There also appears to be a recommendation to pave and line the Grove and a portion of Community Field, as included in the Colliers Report. Why we need more parking when most Lakeville businesses have their own is beyond me. There may be a few summer weekends when it can be an issue, but not insurmountable. Certainly, maintaining more paved space in winter is completely unnecessary. I am aware that the Grove can be muddy in winter and may be difficult for paddlers. If this is a POCD issue, it ought be addressable with grading and some gravel, not pavement.

The Report also suggests 'redeveloping' Community Field as a fine suburban park - with paved parking of indeterminate amount. The Field has always (at least in my 45+ years) been a place to enjoy independent open space (when a ball game was not in progress). Sad if the Town believes it needs to guide usage. A walking track? We already have tracks in town, never mind the paved HV rail trail for miles north and south of Millerton. Sad if this is actually the proposal.

Finally, the Report does not mention at all the refurbishment of the Lakeville Station which had generated another lengthy report. Hopefully, there are still financing proposals out there that can offer some possibility of near term improvement, even if not at the full level discussed in the report.

I am happy to respond to any other comments or ideas. Thank you.

Gerry Freedman
Lakeville