
Wake Robin Letter

From Darryl Peck <darrylpeck@mac.com>
Date Sun 8/17/2025 5:25 PM
To Land Use <landuse@salisburyct.us>

Dear Members of the Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission,

While I appreciate the opportunities to speak as part of the public hearing, I do have a couple of points I thought it would be best to approach in writing.

The first issue is related to lighting.

After spending the first decades of my life in New York, newly married, we moved to Sharon in 1990. And as much as living in the country was a blissful transition, it was the night sky that just took my breath away. I could see stars from horizon to horizon. I clearly remember a meteor shower forecast for late one night in the dead of winter. I set my alarm and woke up at 3 am to catch the peak of the event.

As soon as I opened my eyes I could see streaks of light in the sky through our bedroom windows. I threw on my heaviest parka and went outside to sit in a snow bank on a ten degree night to marvel at the show.

Fast forward to a few years ago when we moved back home after years in Georgia. I was astonished to see how dramatically the night sky here had changed. No longer is the sky dark from horizon to horizon. There is now a fairly bright glow in the sky in almost every direction. Standing at the corner of Long Pond Rd and Rt 44, you can see a glow to the northeast, and the southwest.

Back in my youth I was a lighting designer for both theater and film, and never left the house without my light meter. And while I do believe that had I still possessed my light meter I would find little to read at the property line of the new 13 acre resort we are considering placing the middle of a residential neighborhood, we all know that the hundreds of light sources that are part of this development will create more of that tragic glow in the sky. And, it will look like a UFO has landed from just about anywhere around the lake.

Is the destruction of our incredible night sky a nuisance? Well, it depends on who you ask. For me, there is no question that it reduces the quality of life here, in this very special part of the world. And that is indeed a nuisance.

Which brings me to the second point related to overdevelopment in general. When Anne and I were discussing moving home from Georgia, where they are destroying communities by building on every inch of land, I told her that at least we didn't have to deal with that nightmare back in the northwest corner of Connecticut. "We just don't do that" I naively said.

So, imagine my surprise a year ago when I downloaded the plans for the Wake Robin project. Many, many words came flooding out, and none of them were pleasant. This is why, after never, not once, getting involved in anything like this in our community, I felt I had no choice this time. This project is a perfect example of what is happening everywhere in America. It's the old bogus Milton Friedman concept at work. Grow or perish.

Well, we are special here. Sharon has fewer residents than in 1820, and yet Sharon thrives. Salisbury, on the other hand, now has more residents than at any time in its history, but even then, not by much. It would seem that we are thriving here also. We do not need commercial development or economic growth to continue on. As I think we all know, the very reason many of us choose to live here is exactly because we do not overdevelop. Approving this

project ends that concept, forever.

It would have a hugely negative effect on our town, and as I have said many times, we will never, ever forgive ourselves for allowing it to happen. If built, we are all stuck with it forever. Our kids will have to deal with it, as will their kids, and yes, I have children living here who have also decided to move home to the place of their birth.

I urge you to save us from this scenario. This particular genie will never go back in the bottle. It will encourage others to build. We just cannot allow that to happen here. Please, please vote no on this one.

Darryl Peck
Lakeville