
The Wake Robin Re-development Project

From David Jones <dagj@mac.com>

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To Land Use <landuse@salisburyct.us>

Dear Members of the Planning and Zoning Committee.

I'll frame my comments with two sayings that I think are relevant.

Firstly: "It's Very Easy to Take a Life, It's Very Hard to Make a Life"

With few exceptions, the great majority of people who live here are very happy here. It's a great town - well run, civilized, accessible and with a great sense of self-worth. People like the peace and quiet; the lack of traffic; it feels safe here. This little community is successful and increasingly envied as other communities degrade.

We also already have more than adequate hotel and inn accommodation in this area, between The White Hart, the Interlaken Inn, Troutbeck and other smaller facilities both here and in small towns relatively close by. It's not like those operations are constantly swamped with demand and turning people away - they are not. Adding the dramatically expanded Wake Robin will greatly impact those businesses. So, in addition to not being wanted, it is not needed.

On a previous call I talked briefly about the environmental degradation that has happened and is happening in other places in the North East of the USA. Long Island, Cape Cod, Nantucket etc. Long term residents there are bailing out because "it's not what it was". It's happening because they have been over-developed - too much traffic, too many people - peaceful days and dark nights are a thing of the past. They resent the changes and regret what has happened.

It's taken since 1741 to make the life we enjoy in Salisbury what it is today. I believe you are collectively taking a great risk in approving this mega-project and putting at risk what we and everyone who came before have created. Why do this?

Secondly: "Doing the Same Thing Over and Over Again and Expecting a Different Result is the Definition of Insanity".

I presume the role of the P&Z is to both to ensure the relevant zoning, development etc guidelines are followed; but also to protect and represent the desires of the community that the committee serves? I would like to state my appreciation for all of the time and hard work that the committee has put in on this whole affair. I am sure it has been countless hours for all of you.

But frankly, from Day 1, it has felt to me that you have been trying to constrain a bulldozer! Every time an objection comes up, it seems to get flattened and the project just keeps grinding forward!

Aradev is obviously a highly accomplished and wealthy property development organization. They come with deep pockets, have hired a raft of powerful subject matter experts, a forceful legal team and experts in numerous other relevant areas. They either employ or have hired these people to get this approval done and the resort built. All of which is very understandable - that's their business.

But...despite all of the efforts of this team - their re-designs, modifications, some concessions etc, the great majority of people who LIVE here STILL DO NOT WANT THIS DEVELOPMENT TO PROCEED. Over 500 have gone to the trouble of signing a petition to that effect - that's a big number.

Are there no alternative development locations for Aradev to consider which would not put them at loggerheads with that local community - rather where they would be welcome?

I don't understand how we are now apparently at the 11th hour and close to voting on this when there is so much dissent and resistance from the community you serve. Why is there this disconnect?

Thank you and regards

David and Amanda Jones