

To:
The Peterborough Planning Board

First: We would like to officially complain that these meetings are not held via Zoom. We want to be there in person but we cannot attend as we cannot risk exposure to Covid. We would like to hear and be able to comment during the meeting, but we cannot. With the Covid numbers skyrocketing the way they are, all of the town meetings should JUST be Zoom meetings at this point. It is not fair to the volunteer committee members or the public to expose them to Covid!

We would like to request that this letter be read out loud at the meeting.

LETTER

We are writing in support of the proposed Walden Eco Village Open Space Residential Development proposed by Mr. Garland on Middle Hancock Road.

This town has long said that we need more affordable housing. This town has long been a proponent of cluster development so that we may protect our open space and woodlands and has also claimed to be proponents of Co-housing development.

We are in a housing crisis here. Thanks to Covid, we have had many new families moving to town and many more who would like to, but who cannot find the land or housing they need. There are also many young people who have grown up here and have started businesses for themselves or are contributing to our much needed work-force but who cannot find anywhere to live.

We know of people who want to live in a co-housing development because they want to lower their carbon footprint, grow their own food and raise children in a co-operative framework, yet the only Cooperative Housing in Peterborough is in the Nubanusit Village, and because people love living there, units rarely come on the market. We do have some condominiums and apartment buildings, but they are not only full, they are NOT cooperative communities.

The original Walden Village was a wonderful example of a Pocket Neighborhood. The tenants there shared passion for co-operative living and for maintaining a very low carbon footprint. There are no vehicles allowed in the village proper, so children are totally safe to explore and play freely. The village has it's own gardens, orchards and barns, so tenants can raise their own animals and fruits and vegetables, teach children about farming and co-operate on chores. Walden has always worked with The Well School and has provided housing for teachers and school families for years. We sincerely hope that the town will allow that Village to re-open and to expand the idea in this further development. We would expect that if these neighborhoods were re-opened / developed, that many Well School families and teachers would move there - creating a walking community and thus creating much less traffic on Middle Hancock Road, which may make the neighbors happy.

Do we really want all those people who want to re-locate here to build large houses on previously undeveloped land? There will always be people who want their McMansions, but I have spoken with so many people who want to live in small houses in co-operative neighborhoods, that I believe we would fill this neighborhood immediately. Many of these are people who already live here. People who have lived here a long time, but as they age and their families grow up and move out, want a smaller place to live now.

The world is in an environmental crisis. The human race is in a health and emotional crisis. We NEED places like this to live and to educate further generations about lowering our carbon footprints, living co-operatively and communally. If Covid has taught us anything, it is that people need people around them. We have been living isolated lives for too long. People need and want simpler lifestyles. People need an environment of clean water, locally grown (clean) food and natural beauty around them for physical and psychological health and well being.

Please support this neighborhood project.

Sincerely,

Joanna Eldredge Morrissey and Lauren J. Morrissey

