

Attention Courtney Sim, Chris Dennis, and other Members of the Village of Colonie Planning Committee;

My name is Julie Farrar. I recently moved to 7 Hanifin Avenue and some of you know me as the lady in the wheelchair with the tiny dog. I have lived in the Village of Colonie for over 5 years, renting for 4 years. As a power wheelchair user, I chose the home I purchased and plan to live in for the remainder of my life based on many factors that other people don't have to consider.

For example, the house must be adaptable. I have spent over \$20,000 making my home wheelchair user friendly. My current project is a deck directly from my dining room doors to a backyard deck.

I have been able to get through some of the darkest times of the pandemic sitting in my back yard in the morning, sipping coffee, watching the wildlife around me. Deer, red foxes, woodchucks, cottontails, raccoons, skunks, chipmunks, grey squirrels. Blue jays, cardinals, sparrows, finches, chickadees, woodpeckers, juncos, catbirds, woodpeckers, humming birds and even raptors. And of course the neighborhood flock of wild turkeys. Insects including butterflies, moths, bees and other pollinators. And I will even admit, a few too many ticks, ants and wasps for my former city clicker sensibilities.

Every morning and evening in the spring I awaken to a symphony of birds singing at dawn. Even that one lonely guy who starts singing at 3:50am right outside my window. The croaking, chirping and trilling of the many green peepers, toads, frogs and other amphibians celebrating the rainfall. The swaying, humming cacophony of cicadas sweeping through the trees in the hot humid summer evenings.

Another important factor in my choice of where to live; my home has to be within .5 miles of a bus stop in order for me to be able to access STAR paratransit to get to doctor's appointments, work, etc. Especially when the weather is inclement. Ironically, even though I am closer to a major bus stop, which allows me greater access to paratransit, there is not a safe accessible route to that bus stop on Vly and Central. More traffic, wherever it is diverted, will simply make it more dangerous for drivers, pedestrians and others.

Although Daniel, Chris and Hanifin Ave are all narrow and do not have sidewalks, the speed limit on Loree is 15 mph has speed humps and is a dead end. These safety features help keep the children at Saddlewood Elementary School safe. They also allow me and many other Village residents along Vly Road to walk with our dogs, children, getting exercise and getting to know each other.

Many of my neighbors have lived here for decades, several generations have grown up here since the neighborhood was established in the 1960's. We are writing and speaking tonight to ask you to consider the negative impact of Rosetti properties latest request to expand their massive real estate developments into our backyard. Central Avenue has several blighted and abandoned commercial properties that have been sitting for years. Even properties adjacent to the Village Hall. Can we not revitalize these properties? Incentivize rebuilding in areas already suffering from lack of development?

We immediately demand an honest and transparent process with proper noticing for all affected commercial and residential owners and renters. Easy public access to all documents; including any positive declarations, Environmental Impact Studies and mitigation plans. Including plans for relocation of displaced wildlife and preservation of endangered species and ecosystems.

Actual studies by environmental science experts, including soil sampling and tracking of protected ecosystems and endangered wildlife. A demand for the preservation of the tree line and natural habitat, especially in areas where they contribute to proper drainage and provide critical habitat, including areas behind Saddlewood Elementary and Capital Church that may be the endangered Pine Bush ecosystem.

Reneging on an agreement to preserve the tree line, and the claiming everything must be clear cut while committing to planting two small trees to replace decades of natural growth is unacceptable. Rosetti has preserved the tree line at their Sand Creek properties, it can be done to minimize the negative environmental impact.

Engineering studies that model the impact of increased traffic, impact on residents, and businesses must be done. How will South Colonie Schools, especially Saddlewood Elementary be impacted? How will public works such as sewer, garbage collection, power (National Grid), internet access, emergency responders, (fire/police/ambulance) absorb the increase in population and demand for services.

Residents, and those directly impacted deserve to be treated with respect. Given a chance to voice our concerns and have them addressed. We demand a transparent process. Tonight I ask the Village of Colonie Planning Board to do the right thing and listen to your constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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