

October 19, 2021

My name is Judy Canniff and I'd like to begin by addressing the character of my neighborhood. I have lived at 6 Chris Place since August 1986 (about 35 years). I've raised my children in this neighborhood and now bring my grandchildren over here to walk, play and ride bikes. It's a great neighborhood to raise a family.....especially so close to Saddlewood Elementary School. The neighborhood is usually quiet and it is a nice one to spend time outside in.

Because it's a closed neighborhood we have daily walkers, bike riders, parents with children in strollers, lots of dog walkers and kids walking to school. We also have South Colonie District Office employees who walk on lunch and break time. There's an active component with residents out using the streets in this neighborhood daily.

It's an older neighborhood with 75 homes of which many have small driveways so often there's another one or two cars out in the street. This does make it difficult when cars try to pass because the roads are narrow and often requires cars to go single file or wait their turn jockeying down the road. It also makes snow removal challenging.

Making Chris Place a cut through would drastically change the neighborhood with increased traffic and additional safety concerns. The proposal would bring many more cars (50 or 60?) and Chris Place and Hanifin Ave would become thoroughfares. Hanifin Ave would become very busy as many would want to avoid the speed bumps on Loralee Drive. The Loralee Drive/Vly Road intersection would be chosen for anyone wanting to get in line for the Central Ave back-up on Vly Road OR if you were headed in the northern direction of town. Going left towards Central Ave out of Hillside Ave would be nearly impossible during busy times. Vly Road is so heavily traveled now between Central Ave and Watervliet Shaker Road that there are usually back

ups at either end.

Increased volume is of great concern to me and my neighbors. Just last week two school buses came face to face on Hanifin Ave and had to maneuver by each other. Luckily there weren't cars parked at that point in the road.

I do not believe that Chris Place should be extended!!

MY OTHER CONCERNS- all equally important,
Concern for the disappearance of this green space in the Village and the wildlife we see. I have seen or heard deer, turkeys, bats (which eat bugs and are good for the environment), tree frogs, woodpeckers, hawks, red fox, coyotes and many many different species of birds. I personally am a bird watcher and am very concerned that this will make them go elsewhere. We enjoy seeing these animals and want to continue to do so. I think a DETAILED wildlife impact study should be shared with the community. I understand an environmental study has been done but not released and I have submitted a Freedom of Information request to the Village Hall.

Another concern is a number of the neighbors (many who have lived here a very long time) have stated that they will move if the development goes in and accesses through our neighborhood. This is ALARMING to me. I am very concerned that if this happens there may be a situation where landlords come in and buy and rent the homes. Renters have no investment in the neighborhood. This has already happened to two houses in my neighborhood and we end up with houses that are not taken care of properly. It affects us all when the outside of the homes are not kept up. After all, we all want to have pride in where we live!

Another consideration is the number of students going to Saddlewood. This could have an impact with the large number of homes going in. New apartments just went in off of Vly Road so that, coupled with this proposed development, it has the potential to bring in many students.....which brings in even more buses and cars. Currently the neighborhood is experiencing traffic issues every day at school start time and ending time. There's a long line of cars down Lorelee Drive every day. So every day the school buses come down Daniel Lane, Hanifin Ave and Chris Place to "budge" the line by the District Office. Saddlewood Elementary School just put in a bus drop off area last summer and greatly expanded the parking lot on this side of the school to accommodate the increased traffic. That in itself speaks volume to this issue!!

There is a right away (paper street) on Maple Drive that was put in when that development was built and it was intended for access to the woods for future development. The board has previously stated that they don't want it to be used as a cut through.

Well we don't want Chris Place to be used as a cut through street either.

The Maple Drive neighborhood has several different ways to exit so not all traffic is funneled to just one road. That neighborhood has 50 foot wide streets and no telephone poles. My neighborhood has 23 foot wide streets and telephone poles. That neighborhood is newer and most houses have driveways wide enough for 2 cars. My neighborhood does not. Snow removal and emergency vehicle access is much easier on wider roads.

The last point I would like to make is I believe that if a development is approved ...the best solution would be for access through Capital Church's parking lot. This would save the traffic nightmare for over 100 homes (Chris Place neighborhood and Hillside neighborhood). Perhaps something could

be worked out for the loss of parking spaces going into the lot? Maybe more spaces could be placed behind the church? The church only has services on Sundays and a few meetings during the week - of which none are over 1 1/2 hours. Their parking lot is seldom fully used. The current plan is for all the traffic to go onto Vly Road anyway!!

Not to diminish the value of Capital Church, but it's important to note that Capital Church has a new Lead Pastor who has been there less than two months who currently lives in Schenectady and came from Wisconsin and before that he was in Maryland. The sale of the land was completed by a previous Pastor who has moved on. These folks do not have roots in this neighborhood much less in the Village of Colonie. I believe "their community" is the Capital district and beyond.

I personally don't feel that the sale of the land was being a good neighbor to those of us who have made the Village their home for so many years.

