

William and Sandra Rueb

August 26, 2020

Dear Members of The Halls Road Committee,

My husband and I are excited by plans for development of Halls Road. Yesterday morning, my daughter and I walked along a path at the Florence Griswold Museum and ended up arriving on Halls road and returning home on Lyme Street. It would have been ideal to access a walking path to cross the Lieutenant River and stop for a coffee and a chat in the Halls Road district.

This new Village space would give us a place to shop, eat, and possibly to live. We have several “senior” friends who would like to downsize in Old Lyme and find a place where they could enjoy views of the Lieutenant River close to shopping especially when they no longer enjoy driving. Many of these healthy friends cannot afford the astronomical fees of assisted living facilities and want to remain in Old Lyme. Young people are another group of potential residents. They are leaving big cities because they can work from home and would like to live nearby.

By creating design guidelines for a new village district, we insure that Old Lyme’s charm is followed on Halls Road. A village district will allow for mixed uses of shops, offices, and homes to create a real neighborhood. With the town’s initial work providing landscaped streets which are safe for walking and cycling a good foundation will be set for future investments by property owners.

In addition, new residential units and shops would offer increased tax revenues for Old Lyme. Instead of ad hoc expansion, we achieve a holistic vision for expansion. This mixture of residential and commercial buildings better reflects how we live today with less need to drive everywhere. We support these changes to our zoning regulations.

Making a green open space near the river would be ideal for summer band concerts and gatherings to celebrate summer events. We would be able to host ice cream socials and hear music. Old Lyme has talented children and adults who would like to showcase their abilities.

In short, we are excited that our town will help promote a village center that feels like Old Lyme and offers practical and attractive choices for living, eating, shopping, and socializing. Please support this project which will bring so many benefits to Old Lymers and nearby residents.

Sincerely,
Bill and Sandra Rueb