

Shaftsbury Planning Commission

March 27, 2018

The meeting came to order at 7 pm. Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Mike Foley, and Mike Cichanowski. A large group of neighbors to the "Lake Paren Village" project proposed by Shires housing attended.

Attendees Who Signed in:

Marcy Sprague

Avery Wood

Edward (Ned) Wood

Illegible name

Rachelle Jones

Cynthia Myers

Edward Myers Jr.

Edward Myers Sr.

Gloria Myers

Joyce Scarey

Jane Tudor

3 or 4 people declined to sign in

A group of citizens attended the meeting to express opposition to the proposed Shires Housing project "Lake Paren Village" on Paren Road in Shaftsbury.

The group expressed concern that Chris Williams has a conflict of interest in serving on both the planning commission and the board of Shires housing. Chris explained that he receives no compensation from either entity and that the planning commission has no decision making authority over the proposed project.

Concerns centered around:

Increased traffic

Pedestrian safety - particularly for children walking to school

A desire to leave the land untouched - wildlife habitat

Joyce Scarey spoke of changing traffic patterns and that there are no multi-family house in that area now.

Edward Myers noted that there was strong neighborhood opposition to the project and that some areas of the proposed parcel contained wetlands.

Other issues mentioned were water run-off, exterior lighting (light pollution), the general condition of Paren Rd and how it would hold up under increased traffic, need for a sidewalk, PFOA if a well is drilled, wildlife displacement.

Zoning was discussed, the current character of the neighborhood versus it's village residential designation (VR).

Joyce Scarey asked Mr. Williams to recuse himself from the discussion and he agreed to do so.

Michael Cichanowski is asked to lead the meeting at that point. Mr. Cichanowski explains that the planning commission has limited input at this point and this will be a matter for the DRB.

Michael Foley explained that issues before the planning commission take time to study and review if they are taken up by the commission before an opinion or report can be offered.

The need for the town to balance neighbors concerns with the need for affordable housing and economic development was discussed.

Economic of new construction versus rehabilitation of existing buildings was discussed.

The group left the meeting and the planning commission discussed meeting safety whether the PC had a role to play at this point. A traffic study and or needs study were mentioned as options.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.