

 Mary.Guitar

Sun, Sep 6, 2020 07:55 PM

To:

Dear Halls Road Committee,

I am writing this as a someone who grew up, went to school, and worked in Old Lyme for 30+ years, and has lived in Lyme for 18 years. My family has lived for many generations in Old Lyme. My great great grandfather, Richard Sill Griswold, built Boxwood. My grandparents and parents were deeply involved in the town. My roots are very deep here.

I would love to move back to Old Lyme if there were more options for affordable senior living, especially in a condo or apartment that had accessible shopping, outdoor recreation, and community meeting spaces. It's a wonderful area, and it has so much to offer, and I would love to be more involved in the town, but it is difficult to imagine moving there now because there are no affordable, smaller living options that are accessible to any community area without a car.

I think the current Halls Road plan has a lot of merit. I can remember when Matt Griswold first proposed the shopping center as an alternative to creating an out-of-scale shopping area in the historic district. I think that was a good decision at the time, but planners couldn't see far enough in the future to see what would be needed in the twenty-first century.

All towns need to change and grow. If they are managed by far-seeing stewards who are open to new ideas, they can successfully provide for changing populations, ages, and incomes. Change can happen while maintaining the character we all love. If any entity, whether it is an institution, a culture or a town, stays static it is doomed to lose energy and eventually die. I would hate to see that happen to Old Lyme, which was so vital and energetic when I was younger.

Please consider a comprehensive plan for Halls Road that includes a new village district, one that keeps the wonderful character of the town, but gives more options for older people and young families. Of course there may be elements that need revising in the current plan, but you now have something to start with. Please start with this plan and figure out how to make it work.

Sincerely,

Mary Guitar