
Concern Regarding Proposed Church on Village at Coal Creek Property

From DeWayne Drummond <dewayne.drummond@gmail.com>

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To Bill Rigler <brigler@erieco.gov>; Ken Martin <kmartin@erieco.gov>; Phil Brink <pbrink@erieco.gov>; David Tazik <dtazik@erieco.gov>; Christine Felz <cfelz@erieco.gov>; Joe Swanson <jswanson@erieco.gov>; Timothy Payne <tpayne@erieco.gov>; Luke Bolinger <lbolinger@erieco.gov>; John Mortellaro <jmortellaro@erieco.gov>; Dan Hoback <dhoback@erieco.gov>

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Dear Members of the Open Space and Trails Advisory Board,

I am writing as a concerned resident regarding the agenda item titled **“Village at Coal Creek Property – St. Scholastica Pre-Application Discussion.”**

My understanding is that this property was acquired by the Town for the purposes of **affordable housing and open space**. Many residents supported this purchase based on those clearly stated goals. The possibility of allowing a **large church facility (approximately 1,000 seats)** on this land raises serious concerns for me and for many others in our community.

A development of this size and nature would fundamentally alter the intended use of the property. The traffic, parking demands, lighting, noise, and loss of open space associated with a mega-church are inconsistent with both the spirit and the purpose for which this land was purchased. It also sets a troubling precedent for converting land designated for public benefit into large institutional use.

I am particularly concerned that, despite the Mayor’s frequent emphasis on public surveys and community input for other major town decisions, no broad or transparent public engagement has been conducted regarding this proposal. Given the significance of this potential change, community input should be sought *before* any momentum is allowed to build.

I respectfully ask the Board to carefully consider:

- Whether this proposal aligns with the original intent of the land purchase
- The long-term impact on open space, trails, and surrounding neighborhoods
- The lack of meaningful public input prior to this pre-application discussion

Please know that there are **many residents who do not support placing a large church on this property**, and who strongly believe the land should remain dedicated to affordable housing and open space as originally promised.

Thank you for your time, your service to the community, and your thoughtful consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,
DeWayne Drummond