

Hello Mr. McCormack,

Please post the following on the Millbury website as a public comment.

This letter is written regarding the “Rice Road Zoning Map Amendment Petition”. My wife, Olivia Mathieu, and I stand in full support of this citizen’s petition to change our side of Rice Road to an S-2 district. I would ask the members of the Planning Board to view this proposal through the Democratic lens. You have Mr. Mardirosian, who does not currently live on this street, standing in opposition while the list of signatories on the petition encompasses nearly every household on Rice Road. The members of the Rice Pond Realty and McLaughlin Family Trust once again stand alone in the matters relating to an entire neighborhood, and their opposition when weighted against the whole neighborhood should account for little. Please carefully review the signatories and the choice should be clear. Democratic processes, like the election of Planning Board members must remain intact, here you have an entire street with a legal and logical request to make both sides of the street have similar zoning.

Mr. DeVault raised a valid point, wanting to know that every resident that signed the petition understood the ramifications of their signature. As Mr. Stearns repeatedly mentioned, the impact of these changes was discussed at length with each signatory. The signatories signed this document understanding the implications that will result.

Being consistent with the previous stances observed with the proposed project at 17 Rice Road, Mr. Piktelis voiced serious concern for a developer in lieu of the residents of town. When you have an entire street full of tax-paying residents that would like to see a change and have gone through the legal process to drive this change, and on the other hand you have a developer who doesn’t live in this town and doesn’t own any parcels on Rice Road, I find it incredibly concerning Mr. Piktelis is fixated on the needs of a developer and not the residents of this town.

Mr. Stringham’s comments on the subject were clear, some of the subject properties will be non-conforming and to make certain changes residents can either apply for a special permit or a variance. Residents can make changes, but it will require a more robust process to execute on them. Mr. Stringham stated, “the applicants have made a valid point”, and “this case has some merits”. I think those two statements should carry considerable weight as he is an expert in his respective field. Mr. Stringham also took care to point out that with the amendment this is not spot zoning.

Thanks for your careful consideration.

Cody & Olivia Mathieu

03-29-2022