



Washington Comprehensive Plan Committee <compplan@washingtonny.org>

Comment Regarding the Proposed Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan

1 message

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Wed, Sep 15, 2021 at 4:21 PM

To: CompPlan@washingtonny.org

Dear Committee Members:

I am a resident of Millbrook in the Town of Washington and live at 155 South Road. I have been closely following the events over the last several months, which have resulted in the current proposal to amend the Town's Comprehensive Plan (the "Plan") to include hospitality. In the abstract, hospitality seems like an idea worthy of consideration, particularly if it leads to economic development. I have friends and family who visit the area who would love to stay in a nearby hotel. However, the Town of Washington has not arrived at this proposal in the abstract and for the reasons discussed below, I am opposed to amending the Plan at this time.

I am a trial lawyer by profession. I am well aware that sometimes the facts are not always what they appear to be. Good actors can look like bad actors and ordinary course business transactions can appear nefarious if portrayed in a certain light. Context and credibility matter. And without passing judgment on anyone in our Town, or even outside of our Town, unfortunately the currently proposed amendment appears to have been proposed for no other reason than to permit the Migdale Project to move forward. And the Migdale Project has arrived in our community in a manner that has resulted in truly unfortunate division and discourse. For that reason, it is my view that the Town needs to pause on any amendment to the Plan and should instead revisit the issue in January once Town Board elections have taken effect.

The suggestion of what I will call a "reset" is not meant to disparage current members of the Town Board, but having litigated for my entire career I have observed time and again that once there is a tangible fight, people become entrenched in their positions and compromise, collaboration and productivity are hard to achieve. I believe our community can do better if we look at this issue anew, removing any appearances of impropriety, which have clearly and unfortunately made their way into the current conversation.

Thank you all very much for your consideration.

Regards,

Emily Abrahams

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