

Thank you for your response, it is helpful. I keep thinking about what Bonnie and Linda Schwab said. They encouraged us to really think it through before approval. To think about the future and the implications. 'If we had known what the Inns of Aurora would become, would we have given approval.' For things that seemed small and logical at the time, we ended up with 1 business running Aurora. I do think this vote is happening very quickly without enough information, but it seems that we can't legally ask for more information.

I would also like to express my opinion on a popular comment we have been hearing. 'That the south end of town is not pretty to drive in from.' I don't think this is a valid reason to demolish the building. The unsound structure and lack of historical preservation are the only valid reasons I see.

I have worked in Auburn and I have worked in Ithaca. I have to say that coming in from the South is my preferred way to come home. I rarely even look at McGordon because I am too busy looking at the lake view. You can barely see McGordon anyhow because of the hedgerow. When I do look at McGordon, I dream about what a great place it once was, or how I would love to have the money to rebuilt that beautiful place and call it my home. I don't think I'm alone in these thoughts.

When you drive in from the North, the area we think is beautiful lies in the town of Ledyard. Once you enter the village you have mostly 1950's style homes, that in my opinion are nothing special to gaze upon. You can't see the lake or natural beauty, just house after house. I can think of a few that are not looking so good (my brothers included). The 2 new homes there, in my opinion, do not help make it more beautiful. They are just ugly modern homes.

I am fearful at what precedence the new construction sets. Will others try to build on that end of town? That area is a very popular area for people to enjoy nature. It's one of my favorite areas to walk with my dog and it is wonderful native habitat for wildlife.

About 6 years ago I did a survey of the land on either side of McGordon for a college project in my Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology course. (I still have the report if anybody wants to read it.) I recorded all of the plant and animal species I could find and then evaluated it. I chose this area because it has 3 distinct types of habitat. A primary forest in the gully North of McGordon, a meadow surrounding it and a secondary forest to the South. This area is preferred bird and animal habitat because it has multiple types of land and is one of the only remaining areas within the village that offers this type of habitat. The wildlife can feed in one area, breed in another and seek shelter in yet another. I am very aware of what that land offers to the community and I am concerned about the wildlife habitat changing.

Mowed lawns and cleaned lakeshore are not good for the lake or wildlife habitat.

A bald eagle lives in that area because it provides the kind of habitat it wants to live in. Gibraltar mentioned the scrub near the lakeshore. That scrub protects the lakeshore,

which is desperately needed. Also it is mostly Sumacs there. Despite popular opinion sumacs are a beautiful native shrub we use and sell at the Plantsmen Nursery. Somewhere in human history people decided it was ugly, but in fact it is habitat for a lot of wildlife.

I have been thinking about this a lot and wanted to share this opinion. I don't think the South end of town is ugly. I think it is one of the most beautiful part of our village. It is still natural and I fear it becoming a development of new houses, which would destroy the habitat the wildlife loves and we get to enjoy.

Is this something I can say and put into the public record on Monday?

Thanks,  
Erin