
Time for a referendum

From Michael Autuori <mjautuori@gmail.com>

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To Rudy Marconi <torfirstselectperson@ridgefieldct.gov>; Aarti Paranjape <zoning@ridgefieldct.gov>; Branchville Neighbors <branchvilleneighbors@gmail.com>

Rudy and all,

Apprently the BOS may be considering some kind of association or agreement with CMDA, an organization which describes its purpose in part as:

CMDA is a statewide quasi-public organization that works with towns and cities to increase housing production in neighborhoods that are mixed-use, walkable, and well-served by transit.

I find it baffling, if not incomprehensible, that our elected officials have failed to perceive that the vast majority of Branchville residents, and probably residents throughout Ridgefield, other than developers and their agents, are not in favor of "increasing new housing " in their neighborhoods . The original carefully circumscribed TOD half mile radius circle that centered on the Banchville RR Station limited and restricted the proposed increased density while preventing its spread beyond the reasonable half mile limit. Even that seemed excessive when considering the massive "Wire Mill" development just down the road, but as long a we keep the Branchville station, some increased density may be justified.

However, since the originlal benign TOD proposal, the circle has burst its boundaries and is apparently succumbing to proposals that would transform it into a sprawling amoeboid land smothering carpet of densification purporting to support expanded affordable housing - at the expense of our lovely community and countryside. Meanwhile, where are the proposals to acquire and dedicate more open space to balance the development push?

So before you allow or encourage this frightening trend toward sprawling hyperdensity to take root, it would be prudent to consult Ridgefield citizens via a binding referendum that reflects today's reality. The central question would be, do we want to join in the hyperdense development vision of urban-centered politicians and those they support and encourage, or do we want to perserve our quality of life while integrating affordavle housing in a manner appropriate and sensitive to Ridgefield's character.?

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Autuori
Florida Road

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