

JAN. 5. 2005 12:37PM

Charles A. Robertson

20 Fenwick Avenue Old Saybrook, CT 06475

PLANNING  
COMMISSION  
EXHIBIT #147

*Via Facsimile Only*  
(860) 395-1216

January 5, 2005

Robert J. McIntyre, Chairman  
Old Saybrook Planning Commission  
Town of Old Saybrook  
302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Re: The Preserve

Dear Chairman McIntyre:

I am unable to attend the continuation of the public hearing tonight because of my schedule, but I wanted to write to you to express my support for this proposal.

I have been a homeowner in Old Saybrook for some 30 years and have been active in the community. I have watched the development of this proposal from the sidelines, but now want to express my support for it, which I find that I share with many other people in town. Unfortunately, the detractors seem to come out in much greater numbers than the supporters, but I do sense a very substantial "silent majority" who want to see this project go forward.

The Preserve will provide many benefits for this community. Almost two-thirds of the land will be undisturbed and permanently preserved without cost to the federal, state or local government or any of the nonprofit conservation groups who might otherwise have to step up to the plate and purchase it. The thought which has gone into the design to preserve large areas of contiguous, connected habitat is commendable.

The net positive fiscal impact is important. Old Saybrook is probably not going to get new factories or other large commercial enterprises moving into town. We can achieve a strong economic result, however, by providing opportunities for an appropriate mix of housing and commercial recreation. The Preserve, oriented toward one and two-person households, will provide that type of net positive fiscal impact and greatly strengthen our tax base. The private golf club also will place virtually no burden on the community in terms of services, but will generate large tax revenues.

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As to the private golf course itself, the work that Arthur Hills has done is impressive. There is a need for this type of premiere facility in the region. Much as we all love the 9-hole golf course at Fenwick, it does not provide the golfing opportunity that many people in Old Saybrook desire.

Finally, the plan itself is very good. The central management and operation through a common interest ownership community and the opportunity to own a home in a village environment will be a great attraction for many people including empty nesters and retirees where there is nothing like it now in Old Saybrook or the area.

I urge you to give this proposal your most careful consideration, which I know you will, and more importantly to approve this preliminary application so that the developer can go forward with the final proposal.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Robertson