

To: Planning Board, Michael Berehndt, Karen Edwards  
From: Carol Birch  
Date: January 18, 2022  
Re: Church Hill



Dear Planning Board,

With the attached photo of Dennis Meadows taken by Joshua Meyrowitz at the site walk of the proposed Church Hill parking lot last week as a reference I would like to ask the following questions.

The proposal is to fill this beautiful hill with between 11,000-17,000 truckloads of dirt to make a parking lot the height of which will be the top of that pole, or 18 feet with about 16 foot lights on top of that.

1. Would someone please explain how the impact of this proposed structure will be, according to the conditional use requirements, "no greater than the existing uses or other uses permitted in the zone." Yes, there are other parking lots, but they are on flat surfaces.
2. And how will this huge mound of dirt "not have an adverse effect on the preservation of natural and scenic resources?" Again, those are the words of the conditional use requirements. There are many birds that inhabit this area. I frequently walk on the Chesley Drive path and have had the pleasure of seeing a red-tailed hawk flying off from the top of a tree. How would destroying all of these trees preserve this natural resource?
3. And one of the conditional use requirements is that "extensive grading and filling should be avoided" In section 8.2 it says that natural resources should be preserved. What is this if not a natural resource? Killing the trees, filling and placing lighting on top of the new structure breaks every rule of the conditional use requirements because there would obviously be added heat, traffic, noise, the glare of lights and pollution. And what will the effect be on the abutters.
4. And I know this question has been asked many times, but no answer has been forthcoming. Why have we not seen a diagram from the side to show how high the parking lot would be and what the retaining walls would look like? When that question was asked again at the site walk several members of the Planning Board and Mike Sievert just turned and walked away. It seems that this would be basic knowledge that should be made clear to the Planning Board and the public.

Thank you in advance for your answers.

Carol Birch

