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BY E-MAIL (landuse@salisburyct.us)

Land Use Office
Town of Salisbury
27 Main Street
Salisbury, CT 06068

Re: Pope Property Development

Dear Sirs or Madams:

My wife and I have owned the house at 50 Salmon Kill Road for nearly 40 years. Because Salisbury never has been our primary residence, we have not participated in local issues out of deference to the Town's permanent residents. Obviously, however, the potential development of up to 64 residential units on the Pope property directly affects us. I am writing to address one aspect of the proposed project – vehicle access to and from the new units.

My wife and I love the Rail Trail and use it regularly. Forcing residents of the new units who need to drive to the Village or access Route 41/44 to proceed in a roundabout way on a new access road that runs parallel to the Rail Trail, traverses the length of the Pope site and feeds into Salmon Kill Road makes no sense. It would be wasteful and inefficient, and is no way to preserve the Rail Trail. The vehicle traffic generated by 64 new homes – cars driven not only by the units' occupants, but also their visitors, guests, vendors and service providers – would be substantial and would disrupt the beauty and repose that this whole section of the Rail Trail between Library Street and Salmon Kill Road now provides.

There is a better way. It makes much more sense to create a direct link between the new homes and the Village center, even if the only way to do it is to pave and widen a small section of the Rail Trail. It not only would allow easy access to the Village center, but also would direct vehicles traveling in any direction from the new homes away from the Rail Trail and onto Route 41/44, which, unlike the proposed access road across the Pope property, is designed for through-traffic. Railroad Street already is a paved interruption of two sections of the Rail Trail; a small expansion of the existing interruption to link the new homes to the Village center seems like a small price to pay for sensible planning. Omitting a direct route between the new homes and the Village center seems tremendously shortsighted.

Thank you for considering these views.

Very truly yours,

