

*Megan Price
1696 Ferry Rd
Charlotte, VT 05445*

February 14, 2018

Town of Charlotte
Ferry Rd
Charlotte, VT 05445

To Whom It May Concern:

Allow me to voice my enthusiastic support for Maplefields locating a new shop at the Route 7/Church Hill Road intersection and to ask those with concerns to consider the needs of the less fortunate.

Route 7 is a major corridor for elderly and ill Vermonters traveling to physicians and hospitals. Vermont's population is the second oldest in the nation. What is it seniors and sick people of all ages need?

Diabetics might require a quick bite to eat. The elderly may need frequent bathroom breaks, just as may some very young children and mothers to be. To argue, "North Ferrisburgh has McDonalds, there are places in Shelburne for them to stop between maybe 7 a.m. and 10 p.m." shows a callous disregard for others' needs. We are talking the difference between being homebound and being able to travel for many people.

I have friends fighting serious health challenges. Friends in wheelchairs. Friends forced to use walkers and canes. Friends with heart conditions, balance issues. They require single level access, handicapped access facilities

and large clean restrooms along with excellent lighting, food and water. This new store will allow them to gas up or recharge their vehicles and obtain services for themselves in a seamless and dignified manner. They won't have to struggle, to feel different, to ask for help.

Those canopies over the gas pumps? Anyone battling MS, Parkinsons, COPD, painful arthritis or undergoing chemo very much needs them. A canopy keeps snow, driving rain and cold from your head and neck and from under your feet. People need this.

New technology allows lights to dim until motion automatically brightens them. If some people object to a canopy on the basis of lighting, that may be an answer.

And it will benefit all the plumbers, builders, electricians, landscapers, delivery people who travel distances to do work for customers in West Charlotte and points all around. They too will certainly a clean restroom and to gas up their vehicles before knocking on your door to provide an estimate or perform a day's work.

How about the hundreds of commuters driving from Rutland or Addison County along Route 7 to Burlington for work daily? Same need. How many times are those working at the town offices or library interrupted by desperate visitors needing a restroom? What of all the summer bicyclists, walkers, hikers? Don't they too deserve a full service business? Add to this the tourists and workers coming to us from New York state on the ferry? Don't they also deserve to find a welcoming place with plenty of parking and gas pumps/charging stations?

Open 24 hours a day/7 days a week? Terrific! Count me in to support a welcoming haven that is always open to lend a hand to your elderly parent, a Vermonter battling chemo, a disabled child or a teenager or adult whose car breaks down or is having other difficulties.

Ice storm anyone? Earthquake? Flooding? Travel is not always possible. Disasters happen. A store on that corner could be a tremendous boon when bad things happen on a bigger scale. Why wouldn't we want that for ourselves and our guests?

I guess it is natural to think you and your loved ones will never need assistance. But please be kind enough to understand thousands of Vermonters and visitors to our state do need exactly what Maplefields offers. That is why this Vermonter owned business is very successful, with 40 stores statewide, employing hundreds of Vermont people.

I look for Maplefields when I travel. Thousands of Vermonters find this store a nice oasis when traveling. Charlotte residents should welcome Maplefields and be grateful the company is interested in locating here. This store will provide a friendly hub and services to thousands of people whose names you will never know. I believe our existing stores will continue to be supported by their fan base. Competition makes us all better.

This town desperately needs a welcome meeting place for all socio-economic classes to mingle, to extend a little hospitality to the outside world, to be more inclusive. It will also provide a safe 24/7 place to park a car allowing people to carpool. I think that's great as well.

I thank the Spear family for hosting services on the corner over the years and fully support them seeing a return on their investment.

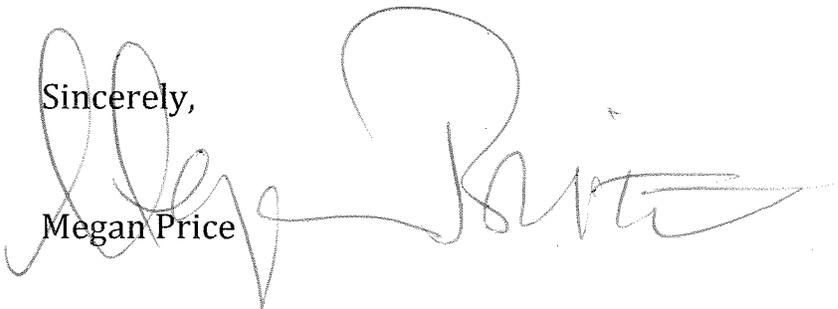
I support Maplefields locating on that corner and open 24/7 for the benefit of all the world's citizens who may need or want services.

I urge all those with decision making power to expeditiously approve the Maplefields application. Charlotte's tax base will benefit and none of us are getting any younger. I am tired of having to drive to Shelburne or North Ferrisburgh to fill my tank or a lawn mower gas can. That is wasteful.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my support for the project. If the submission of this letter entitles me to party status, I would appreciate it being granted so I might better follow the approval process.

Sincerely,

Megan Price

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Price', written over the printed name.