

November 18, 2008

New Scotland Town Board
New Scotland Town Hall
Route 85
Slingerlands, NY 12054

Dear Members of the Town Board:

I have spent many hours since the Town Board meeting last Wednesday night trying to reconcile what I heard from members of the Board and the public with the charge I was given at the outset of the creation of the Commercial Zoning Advisory Committee (CZAC). After hearing from members of the Board that Liz Kormos could not have a conflict of interest and hearing Supervisor Dolin dismiss the issue of trust between members of CZAC and the community as "bogus", I knew my ability to function on CZAC had changed. When the Supervisor opined that members of the advisory committee should have a financial interest in the outcome of their decision, I knew I was on the wrong committee. After listening to members of the Town Board be bullied and rancorously berated by members of NS4SED because they had not declared their position on the very question still before CZAC, I was certain that my efforts were pointless unless our final advice was in lockstep with that of NS4ED.

It was equally apparent last Wednesday that this matter has taken on a political aspect that defeats the purpose of having an independent advisory board. No matter what CZAC decides there are members of the town government that will make their final decision based upon what they believe to be politically expedient as proven by some of the Board members obvious reluctance to offend the NS4SED audience by recognizing Liz Kormos' textbook conflict of interest.

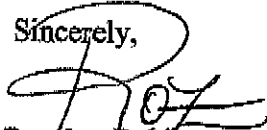
As you all know, Liz orchestrated protracted negotiations in an effort to buy the very land that precipitated the creation of CZAC. In addition, she brought the material that made up said purchase offer to CZAC without disclosing it was previously utilized in a presentation to the owners of the largest parcel in the commercial zone. After confronting her regarding the conflict of interest on September 24 she maintained that she was a one time consultant to a developer. We now know that she was much more than a consultant. Trust is an issue. I can not function, listen, analyze data and dispense advice on a committee with a lack of trust between its members and the public.

Unfortunately this Town does not have the leadership or the desire to have a civil nuanced conversation about the best way to realize the economic growth suggested by the Comprehensive Plan. I was naïve enough to volunteer thinking my knowledge and experience could benefit an independent committee and the entire Town. I know better now and in good conscience will not be party to these proceedings. With great reluctance I do hereby tender my resignation as a member of CZAC.

Please be advised I have many notes, thoughts and suggestions based on my analysis of the Comprehensive Plan, public comment, the Zoning Law, etc. regarding viable economic growth in the commercial zone with an eye on the future of our town. I would be happy to share same with the Board if you so desire.

You have a difficult task before you and I truly wish you all the best and the best for our town.

Sincerely,



Roselyn Robinson