

My name is Gerrie Russell.

I am a property owner and a full time resident. I would like to tell you a few things about Killington. We are home to a first class four season Resort that is ours to enjoy that also provides employment for many.

We have a highly rated elementary school that enjoys strong parental support. The new playground is a testament to that.

As a trustee of the Sherburne Memorial Library I know our circulation is up and the staff has worked tirelessly all through Covid to provide curbside pickup and safe programs for children and for adults.

As the director of the Killington Active Seniors I go to the Parks & Rec comm meetings and know that our new residents are asking for expanded rec programs for their families. The commission is not only listening but actively supporting these new endeavors.

We have a striking new firehouse/community building that you are enjoying today.

There have been four new businesses opened on the Access Road in the last six months. With Covid and the present economy, that's incredible.

So everything in town is changing, adapting and growing and the real estate reports all show we are attracting new people.

Killington is thriving!

Now it's time for the town to keep this momentum going!

The new proposed plan includes water infrastructure. We all need good clean water that tastes good.

If this is the first step in attracting new development then that's what we have to do.

It includes affordable housing. Imagine getting your dream job and not being able to find a place to live that doesn't decimate your paycheck. I would like senior housing to also be considered.

Finally the project includes a redesign of the Access Road. A Safe road with wider sidewalks lighting, and cross walks, that are attractive, will give residents and visitors a place to walk and give vehicle traffic easier access to the shops and restaurants along the road..

Improvements such as this will increase our home values, attract more visitors and families who want to live here

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Just a word about taxes. Some fear that this will raise our taxes. I'm a senior citizen on a fixed income. When you are retired you don't get raises or bonuses so believe me I would not welcome higher taxes. The new development will hopefully increase our grand list keeping taxes at the current rate or maybe lower.

I also trust the select board and our town manager to do what they said which is to put all the checks and balances in place so we are not left with higher taxes to pay for all of this. If not I will hold them accountable.

One more thing....I would urge that the town consider applying for more grant money specifically for the purpose of eliminating the electric poles and lines. While the road is already torn up is the perfect time to do this.