

Comments/Questions on Colby-Sawyer Pavilion Application for Kelsey Field for Planning Board Meeting of April 12, 2022

We support Colby-Sawyer's mission and appreciate its value as an important member of the New London community. We also appreciate that the college has made the Kelsey Field area and connected trails available to the public – especially during these long years of Covid. We are aware of the Final Site Plan Review hearing and are sorry that we will not be in town then to ask questions and to raise some concerns regarding the proposed pavilion. Here are our questions and concerns:

1. Lighting

We understand that some lighting is proposed for the parking spaces and entry area. We are concerned because the light pollution from the college parking lot on Seamans Road is already substantial. Even though we have no streetlights on Birch Acres Road, our night sky is no longer dark because of the lights that are already in place. Additional lighting would lead to additional light pollution for us, and new light pollution for those who are downhill from us. This could include Pleasant Lake. Since the fields are not lighted for games, why would there be any need to light parking? Everyone should be gone by dark. We strongly oppose lighting because there is no apparent justification, and it would lead to expanded use of the area for purposes that are unrelated to the use of the fields in the daytime.

Additionally, regarding lighting, when Cotton Cleveland and Michael DiLorenzo sold this large tract of land to Colby-Sawyer College, they were promised by the college that there would not *ever* be any overhead, overnight lights on the fields. We took this promise to be in perpetuity, or we would not have sold the land to the college. As stated above, we object strongly to any lighting on the playing fields, and we believe that if there is a beginning to some lighting, then the college will put additional all-night lighting in at some point down the road. We ask that Colby Sawyer honors its earlier commitment to the Cotton Cleveland and Michael DiLorenzo families of no outdoor night lighting on the playing fields.

2. Parking

Some parking makes sense if it is daytime parking for daytime sporting events. But if paving is involved then we have concerns about runoff. We assume that any runoff would go down to Pleasant Lake and beyond. And if there is lighting, that will encourage students and possibly others to use the parking as overnight parking. That would totally change the nature of the current use. It could increase crime due to car break-ins, and people would be crossing Seamans Road at night. That is a busy road. We oppose any overnight parking and the use of the parking for anything other than daytime sporting events.

Thank you for your consideration. If the Planning Board finds that lights are appropriate for some reason we haven't considered, we ask that you mandate a reasonable time that they need to be off (like 9 PM). We also ask you to disallow any overnight parking and that the college agrees to aggressively enforce it.

Respectfully,

Cotton Cleveland and John Garvey
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New London