

September 8, 2020

Dear Mayor Hemminger and Town Council,

The undersigned would appreciate your consideration of our concerns regarding the requested deadline extension for the Charterwood SECU SUP building. For the record, **we support the SECU's plan to locate a branch at this location.**

Charterwood was approved, with bank drive-throughs, in June of 2012. The residents abutting this location have endured eight years of uncertainty about what specifics will be in the plan.

The need for a building extension presents an opportunity to make the SECU Charterwood branch more reflective of probable conditions in the post-pandemic future. Recently, Bank of America closed its Timberlyne office right across the street from Charterwood and Chapel Hill North Suntrust closed its branch. These branches were open to all clients, as opposed to SECU, and yet they felt that as more people transitioned to full-service online banking the need for a local branch was unnecessary

Mr. Ballentine talks about the need for "value-engineering." A number of the signers below met with SECU officials and Mr. Ballentine in March of 2018. At that time, we disputed the need for **three** drive-through lanes. There is also an ATM lane and a bypass lane for a total of **five** lanes. With banking changing to online transactions, **five** lanes are excessive and unnecessary. Other SECU branches have only **two** drive-throughs and appear to be functioning quite well. It would be constructive for Mayor and Council to recommend the elimination of one of the drive-through lanes, especially in the wake of Mr. Ballentine's stated need for "value-engineering." That removal will both save money **and reduce impervious surface** that significantly contributes to downstream flooding.

The question of the number of parking spaces is also a concern and offers an opportunity to save money. If, for example, there are **four** tellers and **ten** offices, please consider the following scenario: Assuming

every employee drives, that creates the need for **14** spots. If there are **eight** customers at teller windows, and one person in each of **ten** offices (all at one time), we're up to **32** spots. **Ten** more spots could be empty equaling **42** parking spaces. We hope you agree that this scenario is more than generous! Why are **71** spots necessary? Money can easily be saved by reducing parking, which will save money both on lighting and tree removal.

Mr. Ballentine cites "unknowns on the immediate future" as a result of the pandemic and the undersigned would correct that to "the immediate future and beyond."

We hope you will take our concerns into account and convey the same recommendations for changes to the SECU.

Thank you,

Linda Brown

Michelle Cassell

Irene Doherty

Ramon Fernandes

Deborah Finn

Arthur Finn

Joey Ware-Furlow

Jeff Furlow

Joan Guilkey

Mar Gutierrez

Tom Henkel

Charles Humble

Paul Jansen

Fred Lampe

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Alan N. Snavely  
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