

Personal plea in newsletter, 3 weeks before vote.

Liz Says:

Main Street, Hudson has had a thriving retail presence for more than 200 years. Happily, the town fathers realized the importance of a central core, and wrote a comprehensive plan protecting the downtown for future generations. If you live in Hudson, YOU now have an opportunity to ensure that Hudson's downtown, including the Shops on Historic Main Street and First & Main, remains vital for another 200 years.

Issue 25 on November 2nd's ballot is NOT just about the Promenade. This is a re-zoning issue that will forever change the face of Hudson, allowing strip center retail to spread north on 91 all the way up to Eyewear Images, and west on Norton to Route 8. We could look like Howe Avenue, and traffic will be (if you can imagine) immeasurably worse than it is now.

You have heard that between \$1.2 and \$2 million dollars in new taxes will go directly to Hudson Schools, and decrease your tax burden. You perhaps have NOT heard that while the initial piece of this rezoning – the Promenade – will generate these taxes, in both Stow and Bainbridge the COST of similar developments has been MORE than the taxes generated. Bainbridge is considering a new police & fire levy to cover their costs.

For each positive that the proponents of Issue 25 put forth, there is a serious downside. Please, I urge you, before you vote in November, go to www.smartgrowthhudson.org and/or www.hudsontomorrow.org and read the facts. These pages have been put together, not by people who stand to earn vast amounts of money with the passage or failure of this issue, but people who live in Hudson and who care about the living conditions in Hudson. Another source of information is the Hudson Cable program on Home Town Advantage. I'm not asking you to do this because I own a shop on Main Street... I won't own the Learned Owl forever. I'm making plans to retire in Hudson, but I'd like that NOT to be for at least 10 years. I'm hoping to be able to walk through a downtown. I'm hoping there will still be shopkeepers who will know me by name. I'm hoping I can still go into Saywells and yell hi to whoever's behind the prescription counter, and have the person at the soda fountain know that I want a small diet coke. I'm hoping that whoever's cooking at Mary & Ted's will know how I like my spinach & feta omelet, and that Yvonne or whoever takes her place will know without asking to bring me a diet coke, and Greg a large water. I'm hoping there will still be someone behind the counter of the Learned Owl who will let a little kid have a book, even if he is thirteen cents short, and someone who will deliver a book down on Sunset Drive on their way home, just because you REALLY need it that evening. I'm hoping that there will still be a Learned Owl on Main Street to organize the Harry Potter party for #7 (imagine how neat that will be with all of First & Main involved!). I'm hoping that years down the road there will still be shopkeepers who will come out from behind the counter and give you a hug if someone you love dies. To me, THESE are the things that make Hudson wonderful. These are the things that will still be here if we protect our downtown and don't allow rezoning...and these are the things that will disappear if Issue 25 passes.