

December 7, 2018
Select Board
Town of Middlebury

Dear Members of Select Board:

In recent deliberations of the Design Advisory Committee, we have become aware of the need for locating the weekly local Farmer's Market in the downtown Middlebury area. Because those merchants were refused, by Middlebury College, the use of the newly created public park on the former Municipal Building site for their market, they have been advocating to have the market in and around the triangle park that is being rebuilt. They wish to have it built for such use. Triangle Park is NOT of a size conducive to such use. It could provide, at best, an estimated one-third the space the Market usually occupies...to say nothing of the disruption in traffic, esp. on Merchants Row.

In our design discussions we came to the conclusion that the new public park on College Street is far better able to take such a use. There are 6-8 angle parking slots on the left at the top of College Street that have a steep grade behind them in the park and cannot take market trucks, but all of the rest of the park's edges (90%) would happily accommodate a Farmer's Market. At the same time the parking below the park off Academy Street, can partially hold customer cars needing parking...while the edge of this parking lot abutting the park proper, takes Market merchants.. This park is located at the edge of a residential area from which customers can walk to the market.

It has been our observation as community members over the past year, that the new park is used very little by the community. It is time to correct this deficiency. As residents of Middlebury and the surrounding area, we, as a group, urge you to request the College to reconsider their negative response to the Farmer's Market, as soon as possible. We hope you will work to begin use of this community resource in a way more responsive to the needs of the public since it is fundamentally a public space for the town of Middlebury. Having the Market downtown will also help draw customers to shop in our downtown...a goal we all support.

Respectfully yours,
Middlebury Design Advisory Comm.


Natalie Peters, Chair

Glen Andres
Jim Pulver
Lillian Snow
Chris Zeoli