

Syd Shoaf

From: wendy.sager <wendy.sager@protonmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 1, 2025 3:38 PM
To: Jim Andrews
Cc: Syd Shoaf; Board of Supervisors members
Subject: Letter of Dissent - Forest School Proposal

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

June 1, 2025

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors
Attn: Jim H. Andrews
401 McIntire Road
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dear Mr. Andrews:

We are writing to you regarding the Forest School proposal for Dudley Mountain Road and would like to give our input as residents on Dudley Mountain Road.

We would like to start by saying that the school sounds like a wonderful institution and we realize that it has strong, passionate support from parents and members of Congregation Beth Israel. However, relocating this school to Dudley Mountain Road would be an extreme detriment to those of us who live on and drive on this road.

As I am sure your have seen, this is a narrow, windy, rural road. It is so narrow that if a vehicle is passing a school bus coming from the opposite direction, both vehicles must slow down considerably or even be forced to stop and pull slightly off the side of the road in order to pass safely.

In addition, this road is frequented by bicyclists who choose Dudley Mountain Road as an alternative to Old Lynchburg Road that has become too dangerous to ride on for any length of time. There are currently far less vehicles on Dudley Mountain Road than on Old Lynchburg Road which make it far more safe to cycle.

Additionally, we like to walk along Dudley Mountain Road. As it is now, a walker will have to move off of the road as vehicles pass in order to remain safe. If the traffic were to increase by 400 cars per day, as estimated, it would become impossible to continue to enjoy a walk along our road. Is the solution to get in the car a drive to a safe place to walk? What a shame that would be!

Due to the number of additional vehicles that would be expected to use Dudley Mountain Road coming to and going from the school if it were to be built, would drastically change its character. It would no longer be a quiet, rural route where cyclists could ride and walkers walk. It would become congested and exponentially dangerous for residents and visitors. This is not what the residents of Dudley Mountain Road want for our home.

We understand also that the long-range plan is to add a large community center to the proposed property that would be used not only by the school but also by Congregation Beth Israel for large functions and retreats. This would grow the amount of traffic significantly and is completely unacceptable.

Many of us are also concerned about the very large amount of water that will be needed to support the school and future buildings. Since we are all on wells, we are all concerned at the impact this will have on the water table and our individual water supplies.

As our representative, we sincerely hope that you will fight for the best interest of your constituents. The residents who may be impacted by such a significant change, the devaluing of our quality of life and disturbance of our peace have the right to voice our disapproval of this proposal and insist that this project be prohibited from going forward.

We wish the Forest School well in fulfilling its mission of serving its students and hope that it will find a new home that is better suited and not negatively impact the surrounding area as this one clearly will.

We plan to attend the next meeting on August 6th and hope that you will urge your fellow Supervisors to reject this proposal in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Hugh and Wendy Sager
1920 Dudley Mountain Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 5:27 PM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Dudley Mountain School
Attachments: Letter to Planning Commission.pdf

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cschaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Robert Romer <betau67@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>; Board of Supervisors members <bos@albemarle.org>; rjl@gmail.com <rjl@gmail.com>
Subject: Dudley Mountain School

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Caution: The sender name (Robert Romer) is different from their email address (betau67@gmail.com), which may indicate an impersonation attempt. Verify the email's authenticity with the sender using your organization's trusted contact list before replying or taking further action.

Secured by Check Point

Please find my letter regarding the Dudley mountain special use permit bellow.

Dear Planning Commission,

As a lifelong resident of the Old Lynchburg and Dudley Mountain area I am voicing my support for the school to be built. I believe that it will strengthen the area in many ways and I do not think it will have the negative impacts my fellow residents are afraid of. For starters, Congregation Beth Israel is a wonderful group of people who are very welcoming and supportive of community wants and needs. I strongly believe that the school will be far less disruptive on the road and rural feel of the area than is feared. I believe this because the school is very small and there will only be a wave of traffic when school starts and releases. Even still, this minor inconvenience can be easily remedied by the schools transport, if they provide it, and a repaving of the road, which needs to happen regardless of the schools construction. So while I do understand my fellow residents' concerns regarding increased traffic, this concern can be easily remedied and is no excuse to deny Congregation Beth Israel a special use permit. Lastly, I believe that the school would be in strong support for preserving the rural feel of Dudley Mountain, and in the event where someone would try to change the nature of the area for their sole benefit, it would be good to have Congregation Beth Israel to stand up to corrupt profit seekers.

Sincerely,

Robert Romer

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 12:09 PM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Proposed School on Dudley Mountain Rd. Hearing

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Wren Olivier <wren.olivier@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 11:42 AM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: Proposed School on Dudley Mountain Rd. Hearing

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners,

I hope to speak at the hearing tonight. However, my country road tends to flood If there is heavy rain so I may not be able to attend. Below are the comments I hope to make.

Good evening Commissioners. I am Wren Dawson Olivier. I live in southern Albemarle in the Samuel Miller District. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

The comments I will make are ones I have expressed previously to you and the Board of Supervisors. We are experiencing a climate crisis. Our planet is on fire, figuratively speaking! This is due largely to greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Most countries aim to become carbon neutral by 2050. Albemarle County, also, has this goal. However, according to the county's climate protection program, we are behind in meeting this goal.

If we are to have any hope of reaching our carbon neutrality goal, we CANNOT keep developing in the rural area where a large amount of carbon is sequestered. We CANNOT continue building projects in the rural area that will generate approximately 140 vehicle trips one way each day. Surely, most of these trips will be made by vehicles with internal combustions engines spewing carbon all the way!

People tell me this is a nice project. Yes, it is nice, but we cannot keeping doing what is nice for a few but broadly harmful. We must begin doing what is NICE for all!

I urge you to oppose this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wren Dawson Olivier

Sent from my iPad

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:39 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Congregation Beth Israel Forest School SUP

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Bret Holden <bretholden1961@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:30 AM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>; Board of Supervisors members <bos@albemarle.org>
Cc: South Holden <southholden@gmail.com>; JEANNE MARIE HOLDEN <jmzholden@aol.com>
Subject: Congregation Beth Israel Forest School SUP

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

We are Albemarle County residents living at 2050 Red Hill Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903. We are writing in support of the CBI Forest School Special Use Permit to establish a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).

We live about 1.5 miles from Dudley Mountain Road and 2.5 miles from the proposed school site. We have used the road extensively over the past 17 years and know it well.

Our support for the school is based on two key points.

Firstly, our grandchildren attend and it is doing a fantastic job educating their students.

Secondly, and more importantly, there are a number of demographic factors impacting the county, whereby it is incumbent that we provide additional school places in the County - both private and public.

1. The Manning Bio Tech Center, currently under construction off Fontaine, will generate 1,100 new professional jobs and 300 support staff jobs. The majority of these people will relocate from

around the country. With approximately 1,200 new households with approximately 1.3 children per household, finding additional school places for these children is critical.

2. The South tower at the UVA hospital is being built out over the next 3 years and additional primary care facilities are also being constructed in the city and the county. UVA Health will be adding over 100 new doctors and 4 times that amount of nurses and admin staff in coming years, further pressuring the demand for school places in the County.
3. Charlottesville and Albemarle County have seen at least 1% population growth per annum over the past decade, outside the specific projects outlined above, further pressuring both County and private schools in the area.

The development of the Forest School on Dudley Mountain Road will help to alleviate the pressure on County schools and every care is being taken to have a limited impact on the neighborhood and the surrounding community.

With a 155 acre parcel, the school will have limited noise impact on adjacent neighbors, will generate only an additional 1000 vehicle movements over the course of a week, a volume that the road can easily accommodate, and I am sure the facilities there could provide a broader community benefit as future partnerships are developed.

The Forest School is needed in the Charlottesville community. Please help us to make it a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bret and Jeanne Marie Holden

Syd Shoaf

From: Leah Baker <leahbaker9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:21 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Re: SP202400023 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) Forest School - Dudley - Planning Commission Public Hearing on May 13

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Hi Syd!

Below is a copy of the email my husband sent that wasn't included in the public comment documents.

Thank you for ensuring that our messages are shared!

Leah Baker

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jordan Baker <ontheriver44@gmail.com>
Date: May 13, 2025 at 10:03:27 AM EDT
To: Leah Baker <leahbaker9@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: In Support of CBI Forest School.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jordan Baker <ontheriver44@gmail.com>
Date: March 11, 2025 at 7:28:40 PM EDT
To: PlanningCommission@albemarle.org, bos@albemarle.org
Subject: In Support of CBI Forest School.

Good evening,

My name is Jordan Baker and I am an Albemarle County resident living at 6258 Bargamin Branch Road , and I am writing in support of Congregation Beth Israel receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).

I currently have a child attending CBI forest school as well as another who is an alumni of this school. This school has been a huge asset to not only my kids, but the

entire community. They have learned strong social skills while getting a strong education at a high level. I hope to see CBI Forest School continue to grow and thrive in the future.

Thanks

Jordan Baker

Sent from my iPhone

On May 13, 2025, at 9:39 AM, Syd Shoaf <sshoaf@albemarle.org> wrote:

Good morning, Leah,

Thank you for pointing out that your comments were not in the packet. This was not intentional, and I am sorry that happened. If it was sent to the Planning Commission email, it was received by the clerk and the Planning Commissioners at that time. I will forward your comments to the Planning Commission email list again so they receive it. Additionally, if this item goes to the Board, I will make sure it is included in the packet as well.

Can you also forward me your husband's comments?

Thank you,

Syd Shoaf

Senior Planner II

Community Development Department

[Albemarle County](#)

sshoaf@albemarle.org

434-296-5832 ext. 3902

401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902

From: Leah Baker <leahbaker9@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 8:27 AM

To: Syd Shoaf <sshoaf@albemarle.org>

Subject: Re: SP202400023 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) Forest School - Dudley - Planning Commission Public Hearing on May 13

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Hi Syd!

I noticed my email to the planning commission from a few months ago isn't included in the public comment sections, for some reason. My husbands (Jordan Baker) is also missing from the documents. I have copied and pasted it again into this email here, and I hope it will be considered before the meeting tonight.

Thank so much.
Leah Baker

To whom it may concern,

I am an Albemarle County resident living at 6258 Bargamin Branch Road, Crozet VA 22932, and I am writing in support of Congregation Beth Israel receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).

I am not only a teacher at the school in the youngest class (18 months-2 years old), but I am also a longtime parent to both a current CBIFS student in one of the upper grades and a recent CBIFS alumni as well. I have literally personally experienced the entire age range currently available at CBI Forest School in some capacity over the years.

In 2020, CBI Preschool, like most other local schools, had to close down for the purpose of keeping everyone in our community as safe as possible in response to the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was heartbreaking as a family to lose those daily connections with our beloved friends and community during lockdown, but we knew that this was happening everywhere, and that we weren't alone in feeling that way. Luckily for us, the administration at Congregation Beth Israel is collectively very innovative and brilliant and is further supported by a vast amount of community members with knowledge and experience in different fields of work. Together, they had an idea. What if they took the school we had already, but further expanded through 4th grade to accommodate older siblings, and brought the CBI experience outdoors into nature? With that, CBI Forest School was born, initially from a combination of both a need to remain safe during the pandemic, and a desire to somehow safely be together to support each other through the experience.

One of the most impressive and impactful steps that was taken by CBIFS right off the bat, was hiring especially talented teachers for our brand new elementary school program. This has since proven to be very successful, as we're now seeing older graduated students transfer back into the public school system and/or local existing private schools with much success. My oldest son is one of those students. He just entered Crozet Elementary earlier this year as a 5th grader (having finished every grade level available at CBIFS), and has done exceptionally well in every area of his education and development, due to his incredible start at CBIFS. He is kind, he is social, he is confident and he is excelling across the board academically, too. In fact, he was just recommended for all of the highest available courses for next year as we're beginning to prepare for his next transition into Henley Middle School. Frequently when I speak with teachers or administration members at that school, they have positive things to say about what they've seen in him and the other former CBIFS students who have also recently transferred over to them.

My other son, though younger and still currently enrolled at CBIFS as a 3rd grader, is having similar levels of success already. We can't believe how amazing his experience has been so far, and are expecting that he'll be equally as successful in academics when it's his turn to enter back into

public school one day too. As it turns out, children seem to learn better in nature than they do inside of classrooms. Even students who have been diagnosed with ADHD seem to thrive in this type of setting—I should know, as both of my mentioned smart, wonderful boys have been diagnosed with ADHD, and have excelled anyway, without hardly any intervention. Outdoor teaching supports learners of different learning styles, abilities, and passions naturally well in a way that more traditional teaching can not.

As for me, I was hired to teach the youngest class at CBIFS during its first year outdoors, initially at Camp Holiday Trails. For many years prior, I had been subbing in the preschool when needed, but I really found I loved the experience once I began to sub outdoors...so when a rare teaching position opened up, I could hardly wait to apply. There was something special here, and experiencing it for the first time as a full time teacher was absolutely extraordinary. It was like experiencing an epiphany! Maybe, just maybe, THIS is how children are meant to learn. I couldn't believe the impact the outdoors was having on our youngest students, much like the older kids—they were excelling. They were becoming resilient, kind hearted, wonderful little people before our eyes—and their passion for nature, their ability to care for the earth and each other, and the development of their imaginations was just off-the-charts impressive. The experiment that was CBI Forest School was clearly working beyond any of our expectations, and it took a pandemic to allow us the space to try.

Now, with the pandemic mostly behind us, and the owners of our previous rented location ready to move on with their their own year-round programing again, suddenly this incredible and proven successful school finds itself without a home to continue. As a community member, parent and staff member of this school, I can tell you with absolute certainty that it would be a tragedy to let this school go. It would not be beneficial for this town either, or the many people in it, to lose access to this type of innovative education for young children in a time when connection to the outdoors is less and less available in more traditional school settings. With the rapid rise in technology use, we, as people, are losing out on our connection to the planet on which we live. We are all spending less and less time outdoors, and it is to our own detriment. CBI Forest School aims to put nature back into focus in a lasting way that will impact future generations forever. It is truly groundbreaking, and although history has already been made by this school, we now have the ability to carry forward with this incredible opportunity into the future as well. With every year that this school continues, opportunities for students, parents, community members and neighbors to experience the outdoors, grow along with it. This was an experiment that began while our world was experiencing a hard part of our history, and now we feel ready to take all that we have learned with us into our future. It has truly blown all expectations in every way. It has provided a space for people both of and outside of the local Jewish community (you do NOT, afterall, have to be Jewish to attend—it's open to all) to safely experience education, care, and maybe most importantly of all in this otherwise digital world, nature. After all, one of CBIFS's biggest motivating values is "Tikkun Olam" which means "repairing the world."

This is how we advance our local culture, this is how we can support local families and parents, this is how we create resilient and educated children going forward, this is how we raise people who will one day be responsible for the repairing of our world, this is CBI Forest School.

Thank you so much for your time,

Leah E. Baker
(434) 825-1096
LeahBaker9@gmail.com
6258 Bargamin Branch Road
Crozet, VA 22932

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 29, 2025, at 1:28 PM, Syd Shoaf <sshoaf@albemarle.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

You are receiving this email because you have signed up for the interested parties list, attended a community meeting, or have provided public comment for SP202400023 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) Forest School – Dudley.

This is a notification to let you know that this application is scheduled to go to the Albemarle County Commission for a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6 pm**. The meeting will be held at the Lane Auditorium which is located on the second floor of 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902. This is an opportunity to learn more about the project and provide direct public input to the Planning Commission.

This [link](#) contains information for how to participate in the Planning Commission public hearing as well as will have the staff report posted as the meeting gets closer.

This [link](#) contains the application materials. The most recent application materials are dated with 2025-01-06.

If you would like to provide additional public input via email, you can send it directly to me at sshoaf@albemarle.org or to the Planning Commission email at PlanningCommission@albemarle.org.

Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Syd Shoaf

Senior Planner II

Community Development Department

[Albemarle County](#)

sshoaf@albemarle.org

434-296-5832 ext. 3902

401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Support for CBI Forest School - SP202400023

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: C. Stanton <carrie.w.stanton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 4:51 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>; Board of Supervisors members <bos@albemarle.org>
Subject: Support for CBI Forest School - SP202400023

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Dear Planning Commission,

My name is Carrie Stanton, and I live in the Samuel Miller district of Albemarle County. I am writing **in support of Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).**

My son attended CBI Forest School from the time he was 18 months old until he was 4 years old. In that time, CBI made an overwhelmingly positive impact on his development -- and on our family. CBI is staffed by caring, environmentally-conscious, community-oriented teachers and administrators. They care deeply about their students and their community. The Forest School concept was born out of necessity and creativity during COVID-19, but "stuck" because the staff and families discovered an overwhelming passion for embracing the outdoors. Children don't just learn socialization, math, writing, and reading at CBI Forest School; they also learn the values of environmental protection and community care. CBI taught my son how to thrive in, and respect, the outdoors - and the experience instilled in him a foundational awareness that the world is bigger than he is and requires his care. CBI taught my son to give back, show kindness to everyone, and be a good human. Because our time was so positive, we return each summer for camp,

gratefully embracing a community of steady loving adults, former student counselors, and returning campers.

The cost of special permitting is high, and CBI has run out of options to 'rehome' this beloved school. If this occurs, the loss to the community and the families whose lives it has touched would be enormous. **By approving this special permit, you would allow this incredible, environmentally-conscious, community-focused program to continue. You would also ensure the continuation of a safe, high-quality, educationally-sound child care center in the community.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Carrie Stanton

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Support for CBI Forest School- SP202400023

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Lindsay Hauser <lrhauser30@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 5:18 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: Support for CBI Forest School- SP202400023

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Dear Planning Commission,

My name is Lindsay Hauser and I live in the Samuel Miller district of Albemarle County, off of Old Lynchburg Road, close to the proposed site in question. I am writing **in support of Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).**

While we are not a CBI family, friends of ours were, and continue to attend the summer programs. CBI made a huge impact on their children - their development, socialization, and care for the community and environment. CBI has seriously considered and answered the concerns raised by surrounding neighbors and proposed creative solutions, often at their own cost. They take community and environmental protection seriously, and will not neglect the feedback of their neighbors once the school is established in its new home.

We humbly ask that you support this permit. Without it, CBI will not be able to continue to operate. The cost of special permitting is high, and CBI has run out of options to 'rehome' their school. If this occurs, the loss to the community would be substantial.

Please strongly consider approval of this permit so this community and child care center can continue to exist in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Hauser

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:09 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Letter of Support for CBI Forest School

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Kirsten Miller-Jaster <kmillerjaster@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 9:56 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: Letter of Support for CBI Forest School

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Albemarle County Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Special Use Permit application submitted by CBI Forest School to establish a permanent home at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road.

As a pediatrician, I see firsthand the tremendous physical and mental health benefits of outdoor, nature-based education for children. CBI Forest School provides a rare and valuable model for this kind of learning—one that not only enhances educational outcomes but also contributes significantly to the overall well-being of its students.

Outdoor learning environments, like those at CBIFS, have been shown to reduce the spread of upper respiratory tract infections, a common concern in conventional indoor preschool settings. The opportunities for daily physical activity in natural settings support cardiovascular health and improve overall fitness. Just as importantly, these environments give children safe spaces to explore, assess risks, and challenge their physical and cognitive abilities in healthy, developmentally appropriate ways. This is exactly the kind of early environment that fosters resilience, confidence, and long-term wellness. CBI Forest School is also a unique educational asset to the region. It is the only full-time Jewish nature-based school in the country, the largest nature-based preschool in Virginia, and the only Jewish Day School in Central Virginia. The school serves approximately 100 children, the majority of whom are Jewish, but welcomes students from diverse backgrounds. It provides not only an innovative, play-based, and inquiry-driven education, but also an essential connection to Jewish traditions and community life. Its planned location on Dudley Mountain Road would allow the school to serve more families—including those in areas of Albemarle County that are currently underserved by early childhood education

facilities. This move would address a well-documented shortage of early childhood education slots in our region, particularly south of I-64.

I understand that some neighbors have expressed concerns about preserving the wilderness of the area. The Forest School shares that concern deeply. In fact, a conservation easement will be placed on the property to permanently prevent overdevelopment and maintain the natural environment. CBI has already begun stewardship efforts, including enrolling in the Department of Forestry Hardwood Initiative and the James River Buffer Program to remove invasive species and plant native hardwoods. The school's philosophy centers on teaching environmental responsibility to children—this is not a development that will degrade the land, but one that will care for it.

The alternative to approving this permit is not relocating the school elsewhere—it is likely losing the school entirely. After a multi-year search and significant investment, this site represents the last, best chance to provide a permanent home for CBI Forest School and its vital mission.

I urge you to recommend approval of the Special Use Permit so that CBI Forest School can continue offering exceptional, health-promoting, and environmentally responsible education to our community's children.

Very Respectfully,

Dr. Miller-Jaster

--

Kirsten Nadine Miller-Jaster, M.D..

Piedmont Pediatrics

Office Phone:(434) 975-7777

Work Email: kmillerjaster@piedmontpediatrics.net

She/Her

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:08 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: special use permit: CBIFS (SP202400023)

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Allison MacDonald <allisonsmac@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 7:44 AM
To: Board of Supervisors members <bos@albemarle.org>; Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: special use permit: CBIFS (SP202400023)

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Dear Albemarle County Supervisors,

My name is Allison MacDonald, and I live in the Jack Jouett District on the Reservoir- I care deeply about our connection to nature and the health of our land. My children (4 daughters) all have gone through the ACPS school system but their education started at a small outdoor oriented elementary school where outdoor play, nature, and connection with their world were prioritized with their academics. We have also been members of the CBI community for 20 years, where they have all been involved in their religious education, though not able to go to the Forest School as they were too old by the time it opened during COVID.

I know those who run this program, I believe in its mission deeply, I live in a part of Albemarle County where I can enjoy nature, water, and the peace it brings me on a daily basis.

Please allow the Dudley Mountain Project, the Forest School, to move forward and co-exist in nature. I live on a road (Woodlands Road) where small groups of homes are quickly taking over open farmland, taking down trees and changing the landscape. The owners of this project at Dudley Mountain have given the gift of nature to children and their surroundings, please allow the Forest School to exist and honor this beautiful land, with children and outdoor learning at the core. I deeply believe that, even for those who live nearby and have concerns related to the environmental impact of a small school nearby, that the impact of any small number of homes on water quality, usage, light pollution, noise pollution, habitats for animals and stewardship of the land will be honored by the Jewish Forest School with the utmost respect. Teaching everyone who passes through to do so as well.

-Allison MacDonald
Rivanwood Drive, Charlottesville
434.227.1461

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:08 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Supporting Special Use Permit of Congregation Beth Israel

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Piper Holden <pipereholden@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 8:35 AM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>; Board of Supervisors members <bos@albemarle.org>
Subject: Supporting Special Use Permit of Congregation Beth Israel

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Hello All,

I am an Albermarle County resident residing at 2050 Red Hill Road. I am writing in support of Congregation Beth Israel receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road. The support of this permit is critical. My niece and nephew have been attending the Forest School for the past year and I truly cannot express the amazing work of this institution. My niece (6 years old) was once apprehensive to the cold and rain and had a few temper tantrums when the weather turned. She has gained such grit and independence throughout her time at The Forest School and now welcomes studying and adventures in any weather. Furthermore, my nephew Bengt (4) has become more open with his emotions, expressing his feelings openly and clearly—regardless of if those feelings are ones of love or frustration. Both have grown so greatly this year and I am excited to see how they both continue to grow at a permanent Forest School residence. The world needs more schools like this one who are helping children grow into young humans who are emphatic and kind towards not only the planet, but each other.

If you have any questions about my support of this permit, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best,

Piper Holden

Syd Shoaf

From: Leah Baker <leahbaker9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 8:27 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Re: SP202400023 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) Forest School - Dudley - Planning Commission Public Hearing on May 13

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Hi Syd!

I noticed my email to the planning commission from a few months ago isn't included in the public comment sections, for some reason. My husbands (Jordan Baker) is also missing from the documents. I have copied and pasted it again into this email here, and I hope it will be considered before the meeting tonight.

Thank so much.
Leah Baker

To whom it may concern,

I am an Albemarle County resident living at 6258 Bargamin Branch Road, Crozet VA 22932, and I am writing in support of Congregation Beth Israel receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).

I am not only a teacher at the school in the youngest class (18 months-2 years old), but I am also a longtime parent to both a current CBIFS student in one of the upper grades and a recent CBIFS alumni as well. I have literally personally experienced the entire age range currently available at CBI Forest School in some capacity over the years.

In 2020, CBI Preschool, like most other local schools, had to close down for the purpose of keeping everyone in our community as safe as possible in response to the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was heartbreaking as a family to lose those daily connections with our beloved friends and community during lockdown, but we knew that this was happening everywhere, and that we weren't alone in feeling that way. Luckily for us, the administration at Congregation Beth Israel is collectively very innovative and brilliant and is further supported by a vast amount of community members with knowledge and experience in different fields of work. Together, they had an idea. What if they took the school we had already, but further expanded through 4th grade to accommodate older siblings, and brought the CBI experience outdoors into nature? With that, CBI Forest School was born, initially from a combination of both a need to remain safe during the pandemic, and a desire to somehow safely be together to support each other through the experience.

One of the most impressive and impactful steps that was taken by CBIFS right off the bat, was hiring especially talented teachers for our brand new elementary school program. This has since proven to be very successful, as we're now seeing older graduated students transfer back into the public school system and/or local existing private schools with much success. My oldest son is one of those students. He just entered Crozet Elementary

earlier this year as a 5th grader (having finished every grade level available at CBIFS), and has done exceptionally well in every area of his education and development, due to his incredible start at CBIFS. He is kind, he is social, he is confident and he is excelling across the board academically, too. In fact, he was just recommended for all of the highest available courses for next year as we're beginning to prepare for his next transition into Henley Middle School. Frequently when I speak with teachers or administration members at that school, they have positive things to say about what they've seen in him and the other former CBIFS students who have also recently transferred over to them.

My other son, though younger and still currently enrolled at CBIFS as a 3rd grader, is having similar levels of success already. We can't believe how amazing his experience has been so far, and are expecting that he'll be equally as successful in academics when it's his turn to enter back into public school one day too. As it turns out, children seem to learn better in nature than they do inside of classrooms. Even students who have been diagnosed with ADHD seem to thrive in this type of setting—I should know, as both of my mentioned smart, wonderful boys have been diagnosed with ADHD, and have excelled anyway, without hardly any intervention. Outdoor teaching supports learners of different learning styles, abilities, and passions naturally well in a way that more traditional teaching can not.

As for me, I was hired to teach the youngest class at CBIFS during its first year outdoors, initially at Camp Holiday Trails. For many years prior, I had been subbing in the preschool when needed, but I really found I loved the experience once I began to sub outdoors...so when a rare teaching position opened up, I could hardly wait to apply. There was something special here, and experiencing it for the first time as a full time teacher was absolutely extraordinary. It was like experiencing an epiphany! Maybe, just maybe, THIS is how children are meant to learn. I couldn't believe the impact the outdoors was having on our youngest students, much like the older kids—they were excelling. They were becoming resilient, kind hearted, wonderful little people before our eyes—and their passion for nature, their ability to care for the earth and each other, and the development of their imaginations was just off-the-charts impressive. The experiment that was CBI Forest School was clearly working beyond any of our expectations, and it took a pandemic to allow us the space to try.

Now, with the pandemic mostly behind us, and the owners of our previous rented location ready to move on with their their own year-round programing again, suddenly this incredible and proven successful school finds itself without a home to continue. As a community member, parent and staff member of this school, I can tell you with absolute certainty that it would be a tragedy to let this school go. It would not be beneficial for this town either, or the many people in it, to lose access to this type of innovative education for young children in a time when connection to the outdoors is less and less available in more traditional school settings. With the rapid rise in technology use, we, as people, are losing out on our connection to the planet on which we live. We are all spending less and less time outdoors, and it is to our own detriment. CBI Forest School aims to put nature back into focus in a lasting way that will impact future generations forever. It is truly groundbreaking, and although history has already been made by this school, we now have the ability to carry forward with this incredible opportunity into the future as well. With every year that this school continues, opportunities for students, parents, community members and neighbors to experience the outdoors, grow along with it. This was an experiment that began while our world was experiencing a hard part of our history, and now we feel ready to take all that we have learned with us into our future. It has truly blown all expectations in every way. It has provided a space for people both of and outside of the local Jewish community (you do NOT, afterall, have to be Jewish to attend—it's open to all) to safely experience education, care, and maybe most importantly of all in this otherwise digital world, nature. After all, one of CBIFS's biggest motivating values is "Tikkun Olam" which means "repairing the world."

This is how we advance our local culture, this is how we can support local families and parents, this is how we create resilient and educated children going forward, this is how we raise people who will one day be responsible for the repairing of our world, this is CBI Forest School.

Thank you so much for your time,

Leah E. Baker
(434) 825-1096
LeahBaker9@gmail.com
6258 Bargamin Branch Road
Crozet, VA 22932

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 29, 2025, at 1:28 PM, Syd Shoaf <sshoaf@albemarle.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

You are receiving this email because you have signed up for the interested parties list, attended a community meeting, or have provided public comment for SP202400023 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) Forest School – Dudley.

This is a notification to let you know that this application is scheduled to go to the Albemarle County Commission for a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6 pm**. The meeting will be held at the Lane Auditorium which is located on the second floor of 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902. This is an opportunity to learn more about the project and provide direct public input to the Planning Commission.

This [link](#) contains information for how to participate in the Planning Commission public hearing as well as will have the staff report posted as the meeting gets closer.

This [link](#) contains the application materials. The most recent application materials are dated with 2025-01-06.

If you would like to provide additional public input via email, you can send it directly to me at sshoaf@albemarle.org or to the Planning Commission email at PlanningCommission@albemarle.org.

Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Syd Shoaf
Senior Planner II
Community Development Department
[Albemarle County](#)

sshoaf@albemarle.org
434-296-5832 ext. 3902
401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 4:13 PM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: CBI

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Valeria McFarren <vmcfarren@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 4:11 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: CBI

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Dear Planning Commission,

My name is Val and I live in the Samuel Miller district of Albemarle County, off of Old Lynchburg Road, close to the proposed site in question. I am writing **in support of Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).**

The amount of traffic this tiny school will bring while also conserving forest is nothing compared to all the building projects being approved daily.

While we are not a CBI family, friends of ours were, and continue to attend the summer programs. CBI made a huge impact on their children - their development, socialization, and care for the community and environment. CBI has seriously considered and answered the concerns raised by surrounding neighbors and proposed creative solutions, often at their own cost. They take community and environmental protection seriously, and will not neglect the feedback of their neighbors once the school is established in its new home.

We humbly ask that you support this permit. Without it, CBI will not be able to continue to operate. The cost of special permitting is high, and CBI has run out of options to 'rehome' their school. If this occurs, the loss to the community would be substantial.

Please strongly consider approval of this permit so this community and child care center can continue to exist in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area.

Val

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 1:56 PM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Please Approve CBI Forest School on Dudley Mountain Road

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Lori Balaban <lwb1964@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 1:54 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: Please Approve CBI Forest School on Dudley Mountain Road

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Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

My name is Lori Balaban and I live in the Rio district of Albemarle County. I am writing in support of Congregation Beth Israel receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).

As you know, good quality early childhood education is vital for our community and in short supply. As a local pediatrician, I see children from many backgrounds in many different daytime settings, from family care to in-home daycares to daycare facilities and preschools. As you can imagine, the caliber of these situations varies. Some are wonderful, and some leave much to be desired. And as you know, early childhood experiences can positively or negatively affect a child for life. Unfortunately, daycare and preschool slots in our area are markedly limited.

I see many children and staff from the Forest School in my office, and their reviews of the school are universally wonderful. The children spend most of their time outside, which is fabulous from a developmental and mental health perspective. I can assure you (and local residents) that protection of the natural world is among the strongest values in Judaism and you can trust that CBIFS will respect the environment. I understand there are traffic concerns but it sounds like there are decent options to mitigate this.

CBI Forest School is the only local preschool offering a Jewish education for families who desire this, but I was surprised to find that a large percentage of the students are not Jewish. I believe this speaks to parents' appreciation for the excellent education this school provides, from teaching independence and resilience and respect for nature to the ethical values of caring for others. The move to Dudley Mountain will allow even more children and families to benefit from this superb school. And it was very disturbing to learn that if this site is not approved the CBIFS will have to close, with few if any good options for the families whose children attend or would attend in the future.

The CBI Forest School is a huge benefit to our community and I urge you to approve their special use permit for Dudley Mountain Road.

Yours very truly,

Lori Balaban MD

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 9:40 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Support for CBI Special Use Permit

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Beth Schueler <schuelbe@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2025 8:14 AM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: Support for CBI Special Use Permit

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Caution: The sender name (Beth Schueler) is different from their email address (schuelbe@gmail.com), which may indicate an impersonation attempt. Verify the email's authenticity with the sender using your organization's trusted contact list before replying or taking further action.

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Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Congregation Beth Israel receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).

My daughter attended the Forest School when it was located at Camp Holiday Trails from the time she was two until five years old and she had an incredible experience. We continue to send her to CBI summer programs every year. This is truly a special school and an amazing community of dedicated, experienced, creative, empathetic educators who help children thrive and become their best selves. They also created community for us as parents which was so valuable as, at the time, we were new to the Charlottesville area. We have struggled to find child care in the area and so fully support such efforts to preserve options for high quality early childhood education in our community. What is more important than making sure our little ones are taken care of and ready for life? Please help this special community continue on for years to come.

Let me know if there is any other information I can provide. Many thanks for your time and consideration.

Beth Schueler
510-229-9409

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 9:40 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Support of Special Use Permit for CBI Forest School (SP202400023)

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: James Fiebert <jamesjfiebert@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 11:25 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: Support of Special Use Permit for CBI Forest School (SP202400023)

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commission Members,

My name is James Fiebert and I am writing in support of Congregation Beth Israel receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).

I currently live in Fluvanna County but resided in Albemarle for several years and currently work in Charlottesville. In addition, for the past year my 2 year old daughter has been attending CBI Forest School.

As a Jewish parent, providing my daughter a Jewish education was very important. Forest School provides both a unique nature based learning for students and incorporates the rhythm of Jewish life. This type of experience is not available anywhere else in the area. In addition, there is an overall lack of childcare options in Albemarle County and the surrounding area making the availability of a school like this imperative.

I urge the County to carefully review the proposed Jewish Forest School development plans and consider the positive impacts on our community. This will ensure that CBI can continue providing this unique teaching opportunity to students in Albemarle and the surrounding communities. I greatly appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Regards,
James Fiebert
(516) 528-4424
jamesjfiebert@gmail.com

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 9:40 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Support for CBI Forest School- SP202400023

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Malarie Mirsky <malarie.mirsky@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 9:06 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Cc: rjlucy@gmail.com <rjlucy@gmail.com>; C raig Mirsky <crm113083@gmail.com>; Jill CBIPreschool <cbipreschool@gmail.com>
Subject: Support for CBI Forest School- SP202400023

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Dear Planning Commission,

Our names are Malarie and Craig Mirsky and we live in the Samuel Miller district of Albemarle County, close to the proposed site in question. We are writing **in support of Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) receiving a Special Use Permit to build a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).**

While we are currently not CBI students, our children both attended CBI, and later, CBI Forest School, starting at 16 months old. They are now aged 10 and 7. In that time, CBI made an overwhelmingly positive impact on our family's life and the outcomes in our children's development. CBI is staffed by caring, environmentally-conscious, community-oriented teachers and administrators. They care deeply about each child, Charlottesville, and the location they call "home" for their school. The Forest School concept was born out of necessity and creativity during COVID-19, but "stuck" because the staff and families found an overwhelming passion for embracing the outdoors. Children don't just learn socialization, math, writing, and reading at CBI, but also the values of environmental protection and community care. CBI taught my kids to care for worms, embrace the dirt, and find joy in all weather. They taught them to give back to their community, to show kindness to everyone around them, and to be, simply, good

humans. Because our time was so positive, we return each summer for camp, gratefully embracing a community of steady loving adults, former student counselors, and returning campers.

My children are undoubtedly better little humans because of their time at CBI. This is far more than most people can say for traditional child care centers.

Without this permit CBI will not be able to continue to operate. The cost of special permitting is high, and CBI has run out of options to 'rehome' their beloved school. If this occurs, the loss to the community and the hundreds (or thousands) of families whose lives it has touched would be enormous. Below are answers to some of the core concerns that have been raised.

Will CBI impact the land? If granted this permit, we know for a fact that **CBI will take overwhelmingly good care of the Dudley Mountain land** -- keeping the residents of the area top of mind. This school values environmental protection as a core value of its programming, teaching children the beauty of the forest alongside traditional lessons. The children themselves don't only use the forest as a natural playground, but they use it to learn science first hand, and to learn how to care for the world around them. This builds stewardship in our local community in our littlest, most impressionable residents. Not only will CBI care for the land, they - and the children - will improve it. It will be, after all, their "home."

Will CBI crowd the road? The traffic-flow issues down Old Lynchburg were originally caused by a massive influx of for-profit home developers. By raising this concern, we are simply pointing toward the wrong culprit. We are well attuned to traffic concerns as residents on this road in the Oak Hill Farm neighborhood. However, this is a known issue that *the county is already working to address* via traffic pattern surveys and future solutions such as turning circles and/or red lights. Plus, the impacts of a few dozen families on the road pales in comparison to the hundreds of homes still being built south of town. Even so, **CBI has already committed to taking this concern seriously, offering several creative solutions.** They're open to staggering pick-ups and drop-offs over the course of a full hour, or paying for a shuttle to batch drop-off children to the school. Both of these approaches would fully eliminate concerns about the school's impact on traffic-flow. Most importantly, CBI will continue to listen to nearby residents and find creative solutions to protect the roads and relationships with its neighbors.

What about well water? Given the school's small size; the lack of cooking, washing, and showering on the property; and the limited school months and hours, the actual impact on well water will be equivalent to the impact of a large family, no more. And given the creativity and resourcefulness of the school and its staff, the possibilities to incorporate rainwater into their water plan are very possible, if not probable. **Considering this land has division rights for four homes, CBI's water use will be significantly less than that of the alternative by-right development uses. In other words, these impacts are negligible.**

Most importantly, the love of this community cannot be understated. CBI has raised some of Charlottesville's most caring, intelligent, and community-conscious children for 20+ years, even prior to its time as the 'Forest School.' It welcomes families of all backgrounds, religions, and races into a child care program that cares genuinely and deeply for its children and the impact they have in the world. **By approving this special permit, you are not just allowing this incredible, environmentally-conscious, community program to continue. You are also ensuring the continuation of a safe, high-quality, educationally-sound child care center option in your community.**

Thank you for taking this input seriously, and we look forward to your hopeful approval.

Sincerely,

Malarie and Craig Mirsky

CBI Family of 8+ years

Residents of Dudley Mountain/Old Lynchburg Area

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 9:39 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: SP202400023 CBI school special permit

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Michael Nelson <mnknelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:24 PM
To: bos@albemarle.org <bos@albemarle.org>; Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: SP202400023 CBI school special permit

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Dear Albemarle Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Officials,
I am unable to attend the planning commission meeting 5/13/2025 and want to express my concern over the proposal for special use permit for the CBI Forest School.

I am a new resident in the Greenloft neighborhood. My wife and I chose this land to build based on the oasis that Dudley Mountain Road community presents. Scenic views, safe neighborhoods and low traffic were paramount. This community is a daily respite from my leadership duties at the Medical Center. I look forward to the scenic ride home that will now be dominated by dodging vehicles amounting to an endless game of chicken for each traverse of Dudley Mountain Rd. So much for what Albemarle County and this neighborhood represents. Providing the proposed special use permit threatens this serenity and represents lack of good faith by County officials for those who chose to reside in this neighborhood for the same reasons.

A 5+ fold increase in traffic on a road that is already inadequate for residents and casual traffic is unacceptable. Commitment to property front 20' plus shoulder doesn't fix any of the near misses and accidents that will occur outside of this window for those coming and going to the school. If the permit is granted, the entire road needs to be widened and site lines cleared to protect pedestrians, bikers and motorists alike. That cost and a commitment to road maintenance should be shouldered by the school. I agree with VDOT and Albemarle County Staff that the road is insufficient to meet the growing demands that will follow issuance of a special permit.

The drop off and pick up times are noted. However, the application includes a request to build an event space with no limitation on hours for these events. Evening and weekend events or congregation use that draw even up to 200 will be disruptive to the neighborhood and is incompatible with the rural designation and appeal of this community. The absence of a curfew is unacceptable.

For these reasons and more, I am adamantly opposed to granting the special permit for the application on record. Issuance of the permit would be short-cited and an irreversible blow to the taxpayers of this community, but pose new safety hazards on Dudley Mountain Road in the absence of a substantial infrastructure investment for the entire length of the road.

Respectively,

Michael R. Nelson, MD, PhD
(full contact information available upon request)

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Planning Commission; Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: SP202400023 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) Forest School – Dudley

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cschaffer2@albemarle.org

From: David H <dheilbro@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 4:26 PM
To: Carolyn Shaffer <cschaffer2@albemarle.org>
Subject: Re: SP202400023 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) Forest School – Dudley

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Caution: The sender name (David H) is different from their email address (dheilbro@gmail.com), which may indicate an impersonation attempt. Verify the email's authenticity with the sender using your organization's trusted contact list before replying or taking further action.

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We are writing in strong support of the proposed Forest School project. This area is in desperate need of quality preschool options and the Forest School has been nationally recognized for its educational model. Among the goals is a desire to teach respect for nature and one's environment as part of the educational project, therefore making them ideal stewards of the land. Should this project be denied, there is little doubt that, at some point, someone will come along to develop the parcel

causing far greater disruption to the environment, as has already occurred in much of the county.

The positive aspects of this project and experience with the school and its educational model are well noted in the letter from Tina LaRoche, Executive Director Camp Holiday Trails which is part of the attachments to the Staff Report Summary.

Respectfully,
David Heilbronner
Lynn Valentine
718 Cargil Lane
Charlottesville, 22902

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 8:58 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: CBI Forest School Letter of Support

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Laura McCall <ls.lambert4@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 9:31 PM
To: Board of Supervisors members <bos@albemarle.org>; Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: CBI Forest School Letter of Support

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Letter in Support of Identifier Number SP202400023 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) Forest School
Special Use Permit for CBI Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road

Dear Albemarle Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors:

I am writing in support of CBI Forest School as a community member and professional collaborator. I am highly invested in fostering our youth to be environmentally conscious stewards. With that, I ask your support of the Special Use Permit, allowing the school to construct a permanent site on Dudley Mountain Road.

In my brief time as Director of Development with the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, I have had the pleasure of meeting CBI Forest School students of all ages during their visits to the Garden. I have observed some of the most curious and inquisitive young minds, clearly encouraged through sound teaching and parental support of the children. We need our young people to help grow our community as they become vital members, able to participate and give back in a variety of ways.

By constructing a permanent site on Dudley Mountain Road, CBI Forest School can establish roots in an enriching learning environment that aligns with the school's values and its nature-based curriculum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura McCall, Charlottesville Resident

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 8:58 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: In support of Forest School proposal

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: David Holtzman <holtzman72@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 9:00 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Cc: rjlucy@gmail.com <rjlucy@gmail.com>
Subject: In support of Forest School proposal

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Members of the Albemarle County Planning Commission:

I am writing to urge you to support the special use permit request by Congregation Beth Israel for the Forest School on Dudley Mountain Road. I'm a congregation member and my son was among the first children to participate in the school when it started in 2020. The school provides a solid preschool and K-4 curriculum as well as exposure to the wonders of the outdoors that educators at other schools can draw inspiration from. I understand that some neighbors and transportation officials have raised concerns about the road. I am confident the commission, supervisors and county staff can work with the congregation to come up with a solution that minimizes traffic issues. Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposal.

Regards,
David Holtzman
810 St. James Circle
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 8:58 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Special Use Permit #SP202400023

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Nell O'Donnell <e.b.odonnell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 9:52 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: Special Use Permit #SP202400023

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Dear Board of Supervisors and Albemarle County Planning Commission,

My name is Eleanor Weber and I live in the Samuel Miller district of Albemarle County at 2545 Holkham Drive.

I am writing in strong support of Congregation Beth Israel's application for a Special Use Permit to establish a permanent home for its Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023).

We are close friends with a family whose children attend the Forest School. For those boys, the school has provided a remarkable educational and social environment. For their family, it has offered a warm and welcoming community.

As a parent of young children, one of whom will begin preschool next year, I am acutely aware of the shortage of early childhood education options in Albemarle county. In fact, my husband and I were excited by the prospect of possibly enrolling our youngest child at

the CBI Forest School when Meriwether Springs Vineyard was still being considered as its new location. The need for expanded educational infrastructure to serve Albemarle county's growing population is both real and urgent.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to consider the many benefits the proposed Forest School will bring to the county: enriching children's lives, supporting families, and helping to meet a pressing community need.

Sincerely,
Eleanor Weber

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:32 PM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: SP202400023 CBI school special permit

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Michael Nelson <mnknelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:24 PM
To: bos@albemarle.org <bos@albemarle.org>; Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: SP202400023 CBI school special permit

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Dear Albemarle Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Officials,
I am unable to attend the planning commission meeting 5/13/2025 and want to express my concern over the proposal for special use permit for the CBI Forest School.

I am a new resident in the Greenloft neighborhood. My wife and I chose this land to build based on the oasis that Dudley Mountain Road community presents. Scenic views, safe neighborhoods and low traffic were paramount. This community is a daily respite from my leadership duties at the Medical Center. I look forward to the scenic ride home that will now be dominated by dodging vehicles amounting to an endless game of chicken for each traverse of Dudley Mountain Rd. So much for what Albemarle County and this neighborhood represents. Providing the proposed special use permit threatens this serenity and represents lack of good faith by County officials for those who chose to reside in this neighborhood for the same reasons.

A 5+ fold increase in traffic on a road that is already inadequate for residents and casual traffic is unacceptable. Commitment to property front 20' plus shoulder doesn't fix any of the near misses and accidents that will occur outside of this window for those coming and going to the school. If the permit is granted, the entire road needs to be widened and site lines cleared to protect pedestrians, bikers and motorists alike. That cost and a commitment to road maintenance should be shouldered by the school. I agree with VDOT and Albemarle County Staff that the road is insufficient to meet the growing demands that will follow issuance of a special permit.

The drop off and pick up times are noted. However, the application includes a request to build an event space with no limitation on hours for these events. Evening and weekend events or congregation use that draw even up to 200 will be disruptive to the neighborhood and is incompatible with the rural designation and appeal of this community. The absence of a curfew is unacceptable.

For these reasons and more, I am adamantly opposed to granting the special permit for the application on record. Issuance of the permit would be short-cited and an irreversible blow to the taxpayers of this community, but pose new safety hazards on Dudley Mountain Road in the absence of a substantial infrastructure investment for the entire length of the road.

Respectively,

Michael R. Nelson, MD, PhD
(full contact information available upon request)

Syd Shoaf

From: Michael Nelson <mnknelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:25 PM
To: bos@albermarle.org; Planning Commission
Subject: SP202400023 CBI school special permit

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

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Respectively,

Michael R. Nelson, MD, PhD
(full contact information available upon request)

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 8:18 AM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: CBI Special Use Permit - Please

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Diane Schober Morini <schobe44@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:41 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>; Board of Supervisors members <bos@albemarle.org>
Subject: CBI Special Use Permit - Please

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Caution: The sender name (Diane Schober Morini) is different from their email address (schobe44@aol.com), which may indicate an impersonation attempt. Verify the email's authenticity with the sender using your organization's trusted contact list before replying or taking further action.

Secured by Check Point

Dear Decision Makers,

I'm asking you to support the CBI Special Use Permit for a permanent location for the CBI Forest School at 1648 Dudley Mountain Road.

My grandnieces have attended outdoor schools in their preschool and kindergarten years. It's a healthy alternative to the traditional classroom. The children learn to respect and appreciate nature with a knowledge and maturity beyond their years. The outdoor school experience has fostered my grandnieces' sense of wonder and independence in our natural world. They and their friends have enjoyed the outdoor classrooms while learning valuable lessons. CBI Forest School has been especially beneficial in promoting a unique, balanced, and important educational curriculum.

I understand the nearby residents' concerns regarding maintaining the wilderness, conserving water use, and minimizing traffic in the area. However, CBI Forest School has respectfully addressed these concerns. They are

willing to take specified steps to reduce the school's impact on the community. Their proposals are reasonable and responsible.

I urge the County to support the proposed CBI Forest School development plans and grant the Special Use Permit to CBI. The many benefits for future generations of students in Albemarle could be priceless.

Thank you for your time.

Diane Morini
Albemarle County resident

Syd Shoaf

From: Carolyn Shaffer
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 3:29 PM
To: Syd Shoaf
Subject: Fw: Support for 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023)

Thank you,

Carolyn Shaffer

Notary Public
Planning Commission Clerk
Albemarle County

cshaffer2@albemarle.org

From: Ralph Morini <ralph.morini@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 3:15 PM
To: Board of Supervisors members <bos@albemarle.org>; Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@albemarle.org>
Subject: Support for 1648 Dudley Mountain Road (SP202400023)

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Dear Decision Makers,

I am an Albemarle County resident living at 570 Arrowhead Ct in Earlysville. I'm writing to ask for your support for the CBI Special Use Permit to build a permanent location for the Forest School at the subject location.

I have two great nieces who have attended and benefited immensely from outdoor school attendance. Our older niece attended outdoor school during the pandemic and became a dedicated nature person who tends chickens, gardens and is a committed environmentally focused nature supporter as a 10 year old. Her younger sister is a current student at CBI Forest School. Her overall development and love of nature has been remarkable, just like her older sister.

At a time when our world has so many human caused environmental issues to deal with, building commitments toward environmental sustainability and general love of nature in our children is critical to maintaining, and more likely rebuilding, the world's environmental health. In our family's experience, the CBI Forest School does a great job at this.

Local neighbor's objections are understandable given their expressed concerns regarding maintaining the area's wilderness, conserving water use and minimizing traffic in the area. However, CBI has clearly indicated respect for these concerns and have proposed actions they can take to minimize impacts.

They are committed to maintaining a small footprint for their facilities in order to maintain the wilderness of the vast majority of the large property. They have suggested multiple ways that they can limit water use including developing a rain catchment system for non-potable uses and using low flow fixtures. They also are planning to minimize traffic flows at peak times by staggering dropoff times, shuttle bussing kids from the city and even considering making some road improvements in spots.

It is impossible to find pure good things these days, but in this case the learning and values that the students will acquire and apply to their lives and our world, plus CBI's willingness preserve the nature of the area and work to reasonably accommodate the community concerns make this a positive project that will enhance education and health of our community for generations. I urge the County to support the proposed CBI Forest School development plans and grant the Special Use Permit to CBI.

My sincere thanks for your consideration.

Ralph Morini
570-436-6470