

REPORT ON THE DECEMBER 11 TOWN MEETING December 11th at 7PM at the ROSENDALE COMMUNITY CENTER

The rec center was filled to near capacity with people curious about Canopy's proposed development. It was inspiring to hear the concern that people feel, and to sense that the community is realizing that this may well be a defining time for the town - this could be the challenge that galvanizes the town to pull together to insure that development in Rosendale is development FOR Rosendale.

The film that was screened, [RESORTING TO MADNESS](#), brought out four key points that clarify the extent of the impact this kind of "resort/destination/real-estate" development has brought to small communities:

- 1) The only real difference between Canopy's proposal and a major ski area/real-estate development is in the substitution of a spa for a ski station.
- 2) The experience of small communities in the west should serve as a caution to us. For example, it has happened that after the development takes root, the development company sets about transforming the town to meet the development's "destination" requirements. Small shop-owners are bought out, and are replaced by corporate-owned storefront shops. Main street is no longer held in local hands. The once authentic small town becomes an outpost of the corporation. This is not guesswork.
- 3) Despite the best efforts of local people, political appointees in Washington have often paid their political dues by agreeing to developers' demands. Through Steve Case and his partners, Canopy is indeed well-connected in Washington. Those connections would benefit the corporation, not Rosendale.
- 4) The experience of small towns in the west that have come under this kind of pressure proves, that if Rosendale and the region work together, starting now, we can influence the outcome, preserve the character of the town, and move toward a future built upon forms of development that are favorable to local people and local living.

ROSENDALE AND THE PEOPLE OF ULSTER COUNTY HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE