

Lauren Michalski

From: Kathleen Garvin <kathleengrn35@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:51 PM
To: Zoning Board of Appeals
Subject: Summer St project.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

I would like to encourage you to vote against changing the Summer St. project to all rentals instead of the mix of ownership units and rentals. I believe it is much better for the town to have the homes available to own for two reasons. One is that 25% would be more affordable and allow families that are being priced out of Walpole to own a home here- our teachers, town employees, emergency personnel, and many that grew up here that would like to own a home here but can't afford to do so.

The second reason is because those who buy homes put down more permanent roots. If you live in an apartment typically your rent goes up annually. At some point it becomes too expensive to stay in that apartment and you move to a new one which may not be in Walpole. This happened to my husband and I as newlyweds 40 years ago- after two years in a small apartment on Norton Ave we moved out because the increase in rent every six months meant we could not put aside enough to save for a down payment. I have a friend that lives in the West Street apartments currently. She is facing the same situation last year. She waited to see what the rent would go up and whether she could afford it she was able to stay for the year, but again is anticipating that she may have to move when her lease is up in December. She has not received enough of a raise at work to offset any type of increase this year, I believe that's fairly common and not something unusual, which is why I reiterate homeownership will allow some members of the 55 Summer St. community to put down permanent roots. They will be able to support our community by becoming involved in town activities as well as patronizing our local stores and restaurants.

I urge you to keep this project as is and encourage the developer to get started on building the homes.

Thank you
Kathi Garvin
6 Warwick Rd
South Walpole
Pct 5 RTM

Sent from my iPhone