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To: Zoning Board of Appeals
Subject: Summer Street, South Walpole 40B

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Hello, and thank you again for hearing the concerns of South Walpole Residents. I was not able to make it to the most recent hearing, but I was able to view the meeting on YouTube and I would like to express my opinion, as well.

I have been a resident of South Walpole for 13 years now. My children have made their way through the Walpole School District, starting in South Walpole Preschool and Kindergarten at Boyden School, and now my youngest attends Walpole High School and my oldest is in college. I can say, with certainty, that the students, as well as the families of the students who attend our schools for only 12-18 months, a common finding in rental accommodations, are generally not invested in the community or the schools, as would be expected. We have seen, in this family, the impact from families who are just moving through, and living here briefly, without concern for the South Walpole Community. This is a fact of life, and I understand that. But adding to the number of rental units and taking away ownership units will certainly have a detrimental effect on our schools, and the community as a whole. I think it is important to consider the imbalance that would occur if we agree to the construction of an all-rental community.

I understand that interest rates are high, and this may negatively impact the developer's bottom line, brought to our attention by Mr. Hale's attorney. But I also understand that housing demands and interest rates will change over time. And we shouldn't, if at all possible, compromise the Walpole Community to support the developer's bottom line. The housing market will change in a few years, when this project has been completed. The addition of rental units and the subtraction of ownership units will change this community forever.

I can see that the ZBA appreciates the impact that this current situation will have on our town. I am truly grateful for the time (years) and careful consideration that you have put into this difficult project. And I am forever grateful to the residents of South Walpole who spoke again at the most recent meeting, for never giving up on our community.

Thank you again for your time,
Sharon McCarthy
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