Subject: Urgent Action Needed to Utilize 7th Street Property for Affordable Housing

Dear Village Council,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a concerned resident of the Village of Northport, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the fate of the 7th Street property currently under discussion by the council. I recently helped draft a letter from the Leelanau Township Community Foundation, but I feel this matter deserves more than one letter of support. I strongly urge you to consider utilizing this vacant property for potential housing projects, which our community greatly needs.

The 7th Street property presents a unique opportunity to address the critical issue of a lack of housing of all types in our community. While I understand the council's consideration of selling the property for profit, or turning it into overflow parking, I believe that prioritizing the long-term well-being of our community should take precedence. By dividing the property into two lots for housing projects and leaving the other two heavily wooded lots untouched, we can strike a balance between environmental preservation and meeting the pressing need for affordable housing.

I have personally sat in on countless meetings and discussions on housing, and I see this as a chance for local leaders to stop talking about it, and dancing around it, and take concrete steps. The longer we wait to address this need the further behind we are, and the harder it becomes to be a thriving year-round community. I have also sat in on countless meetings that made it clear that if Northport puts up the property, there are enough interested housing groups that might step forward and take on such a project. There is also a lot of money from the State and Federal governments that are available, or will become available, and if we aren't ready for that opportunity for grant money, we will miss it.

Furthermore, it is important to note that the 7th Street property currently does not generate tax revenue for the community. Therefore, utilizing it for housing would not result in any loss to the village. On the contrary, it presents an opportunity for the community to gain numerous benefits. Any form of housing (apartments, duplex, triplex, etc.) could attract year-round residents, or house current residents that get displaced seasonally.

I implore you to consider the potential positive impact that utilizing the 7th Street property for housing could have on our community. By taking this step, the council would not only address a critical need but also demonstrate a commitment to the well-being and prosperity of Northport. This decision would set an example for other communities facing similar challenges and showcase our village as a leader in innovative and inclusive housing solutions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I trust that you will carefully consider the importance of housing and the unique opportunity presented by the 7th Street property. I look forward to witnessing the council's commitment to creating a vibrant and inclusive community in Northport.

Yours sincerely,

Kristi Fischer