

October 7, 2025

To: Members of the Village of Northport Planning Commission and Village Council

Re: Proposed development of 7th Street ~1.2 acre Village Parcel

Dear Village Commissioners and Council people:

We are writing to you today in favor of the proposed development that was recently discussed at the October 2, 2025 working group meeting.

Develop 4-6 units of attainable single-family detached residential units with a cottage court design that conforms to and preserves the existing natural features on the entire site, with units located only on the southern ~1.2-acre portion. Split the northern ~4.8-acre portion and designate it as a Village park.

We understand that many in the surrounding area have written against any development of the parcel for attainable housing, as evident by the many "Save 7th Street" signs featuring a lone tree that have popped up around the neighborhood. Having been privy to some of the conversations about the proposed development, we are suspicious about some of the sentiments being routing in saving the "green space" when what is up for discussion is the former recycling yard and current DPW lot. Anecdotally we have heard that some of the nearby residents did not agree with the site being so close to the water. Not for environmental issues at all, but an attempt to limit public access to the lake.

We know many Northport business owners that would consider blocking attainable housing initiatives to be downright anti-small business. We also know and are friends with several local residents that live and work in the Village and were recipients of attainable housing initiatives.

The community came out in force to shut down the Buster Dame site, and now we are asked to "Save 7th Street". It's beginning to look like no site is going to be good enough if it's "in my backyard". The housing prices are prohibitive and if we want to encourage residents to move here, not just for a second vacation home, then something has to give.

Best,

Virginia and Ted Foley
10149 N Shore Drive
Northport, MI 49670