
Attainable housing

From Kevin Murphy <kevin@newbohemiancafe.com>

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To Jim Dyer <manager@villageofnorthport.net>; Scott, Joni <clerk@villageofnorthport.net>; cmccann@villageofnorthport.net <cmccann@villageofnorthport.net>; lcavendish@villageofnorthport.net <lcavendish@villageofnorthport.net>; hcook@villageofnorthport.net <hcook@villageofnorthport.net>; edean@villageofnorthport.net <edeane@villageofnorthport.net>; jruble@villageofnorthport.net <jruble@villageofnorthport.net>; wharper@villageofnorthport.net <wharper@villageofnorthport.net>; sager@villageofnorthport.net <sager@villageofnorthport.net>

Cc Amy Murphy <amy@newbohemiancafe.com>; Kristi Fischer <kristifischer@live.com>

Village of Northport Trustees and staff,

I only have a moment to fire off a letter this afternoon, and I don't think I will be able to make it back from a volleyball game in Traverse City in time to attend the meeting in person. So this note will likely have to do.

Opposition to developing attainable housing on seventh street is selfish, short-sighted and - if the NIMBY clowns win the day like they appear to have done in "saving Buster Dame" - ultimately bad for Northport.

Here are my beliefs about housing in Northport:

- 1) Any construction of any type, any size, any density, in any location in the village that might give an opportunity for more working-age people to live here should be green-lit and encouraged by our government as I believe it would be by our business community and the majority of our residents.
- 2) Any effort to prevent year-round housing stock from being turned into short-term rental units should be a top priority for our government.
- 3) Any effort to build new purpose-specific lodging accommodations that do not diminish housing stock should also be green-lit and encouraged.
- 4) Any "infill housing" (i.e. granny flats, backyard bungalows, garage lofts, tiny homes, ADUs, basement or attic conversions, etc) should be green-lit, fast-tracked and encouraged as a more cost-effective method of adding housing stock.
- 5) Taxing authorities should offer tax incentives (i.e. homestead-level taxes) for property owners who commit to renting their properties long-term as workforce/attainable housing.

As the owner of a business in the village of Northport, I can assure you that housing is the number one factor limiting the growth and success of businesses here. Opposing efforts to create (or convert) housing that would be attainable to people who actually work in our community has a direct, negative impact on the quality of life for everyone in Northport.

Wish that there were more restaurants, open more days and more hours? Wish that there was still a pharmacy, a medical lab, a barber shop, a car repair shop, etc. etc.? Lack of workforce due to lack of housing is the reason so many businesses simply can't make it in Northport.

We mustn't continue to let a small, self-serving, fear-mongering group of fuddy-duddies quash any level of growth or construction in this town. If we do, Northport is going to cease to be a quaint but lively little bayside community, and turn into a Hollywood set that looks like a village, but has no viable businesses, an even smaller student body in the school, and nothing to do other than print up signs about "saving" some other thing that doesn't need saving.

Please do not listen to this vocal minority. Did I mention that they are fuddy duddies? They are fuddy duddies. Nobody should listen to fuddy duddies.

Kevin Murphy
Co-owner, New Bohemian Cafe
Chairman, Northport League of Fuddy-Duddy Shamers