

Homes for People Who Make Northport Work

A Letter to the Northport Michigan Village Council

Dear Members of the Northport Village Council,

I write to you today with a deep commitment to the future of our village and a sincere belief in your ability to shape Northport into a community that serves all its residents. Tonight's vote regarding the village-owned property on 7th Street is not merely a matter of land allocation—it is a decision about who we are, who we welcome, and what kind of future we envision for Northport.

Addressing Misinformation and Clarifying Realities

Recent communications from the 'Save 7th Street' campaign have unfortunately circulated a number of misconceptions regarding the proposed use of this property. It is essential to set the record straight. There is a group of retirees spreading misinformation, going door to door and falsely claiming there is an ugly condo development planned for the area—while pretending to care about wetlands, even though the houses on that street were built on the same land. This street has an industrial boat yard, so arguments about “aesthetics and character” ring hollow. The council's duty is to tune out the noise and do what is right for everyone—especially the year-round people who make Northport work.

A Fair Compromise for Our Community

What is being proposed tonight is, in fact, an extremely fair compromise. Protecting about 80 percent of the property as parkland is a thoughtful gesture to those who treat this land as their own and feel entitled to decide its fate. These are people unwilling to let the process play out, convinced that any change marks the “end of Northport”—as they claimed with the dispensary and the social district. Dedicating the majority of this land as a park is not bowing to the minority but a sign of the village's commitment to fairness and balance.

Meeting the Needs of Our Community

Northport faces a critical shortage of affordable housing for year-round residents, young families, and the workers who keep our community strong. Ignoring this reality risks turning

Northport into an exclusive, hollow village where only a select few can survive. Allowing for future discussions about responsible development on the remaining 1.2 acres is not only practical, it is essential to ensuring our community will continue to thrive.

Preserving and Enhancing Village Character

Northport's true character is much richer than the image projected by a handful of affluent retirees. We are a community built on inclusivity, opportunity, and the energy of young families and working people. Our history is one of vibrant neighborhoods, kids in schools, and families able to live and work here. Thoughtful housing development can reflect our values and enhance the village for everyone.

Call to Action: Focus on the Future

I urge you to focus on the needs of the broader community, not just what is comfortable for those resistant to change. By protecting most of the land and allowing open-minded, transparent discussion about responsible development, you show fairness and vision—qualities Northport needs to return to the thriving community it once was. Let's not kick the can down the road because a handful of people in their seventies have the time to go door to door spreading misinformation. Do what is right for the future of our town. For the year-round people. For the families. For Northport's future.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to Northport's future. Let us move forward together, with vision and compassion for the people who make this village work.

Sincerely,

Kristi Fischer

Fischer's Happy Hour Tavern

Chair of Leelanau Township Community Foundation

Secretary of Leelanau Township Planning Commission