

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2023 8:32 AM
To: MARYJANE CALHOUN
Cc: Sarah Vinas; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Britany Waddell; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: Preservation of Pride of Place

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
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From: MARYJANE CALHOUN <mjcalhoun1@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 10:26 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; Info - CAPA <info@townofchapelhill.org>; jbrock@lfrep.com; gcapps@lfrep.com; Pam Hemminger <phemminger@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Preservation of Pride of Place

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

To Whom it may concern:

We live in America's Hometown, Plymouth, Massachusetts. On more than one occasion I have visited Chapel Hill, and have enjoyed the ambiance of your town. College towns have a magic of their own; the energy of youth, the dignity of academia, the excitement of college arts and sports, the wisdom of professors and professors emeritus who often choose to remain, and the aspirations of the

very young in town who cannot imagine not attending college with the examples before them. Buildings tend to be of a human scale, three or 4 stories at most. Such towns are aesthetically blessed with attractive libraries and dorms, green spaces and local conveniences, restaurants and businesses that serve that academic milieu. Conversations tend to be about ideas. People meet others who are not just like them and yet learn that as people, we are more alike than different-sounds like a bit of a panacea. The seasons and the academic year together have a natural rhythm that enhances the special environment.

In our town we have made some big zoning errors. We have lost a beautiful sightline to our harbor. It used to be that as one drove into the harbor district, where the Mayflower first arrived, your first view was to water and sky where the ship was anchored in 1620; the view let your imagination wander and wonder. Now the back wall of high end apartments that have not sold, block that view. In a large neighborhood where land planning stressed Open Space Mixed Use Development (OSMUD), somehow there is now a huge apartment complex at the top of the height allowance, no longer having pines breaking the roofline, casting a canyon-like shadow onto the previously beloved and frequented Green. We have a dark sky ordinance for those who live here to enjoy the night sky, but those 4th floor apartments will completely interfere with star-gazing. We have some new buildings that the fire dept, has gone to our select board to say, "Hey, ahh, really cannot reach all of those in the event of a fire! Tough getting people out of those locations in health emergencies"

It is very easy to kill the goose that lays the golden egg. Plymouth is making that mistake and saddening long-term residents. If we want to live among tall apartment buildings, we should move to Boston! Often smaller cities and towns are like that girl in high school who doesn't know she is pretty. Chapel Hill is pretty. Chapel Hill has its own magic. Putting up a nine story building on Franklin street? Really? Must be hunting season, and the goose is about to be shot.

We hope you will have the wisdom to have a lab move to outer environs, like a research "village" and not in your downtown area. We hope you do not make the mistakes our beautiful historic town has already made.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Calhoun-Donelan, M. Ed.

Michael H. Donelan