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The Town Board  
Town of Southold  
Box 1179  
Southold, NY 11971

February 9, 2020

Lady and Gentlemen:

I am writing in connection with the application for a change in zoning for a portion of a lot owned by The Fishers Island School District.

Needless to say, the nearby neighbors are not enthused by this possibility, that being a polite understatement. I do not live near the Fort and my comments herein are not generated by NIMBY concerns, but rather are observations as a long-time Islander.

The subject property is not suited to dense development, as requested. The Fort, as it is still known by many, is the busiest part of Fishers Island with the most traffic of every kind, be it cement trucks, semi-trailers from the Connecticut food distributor, building materials, fuel tanker trucks, passenger cars etc. After a number of twists and turns on a narrow street, the entry and egress of the proposed development "empties" onto the main road where all the Island traffic passes, with blind corners that cannot be improved.

Fort Wright was laid out and developed in an organized rectilinear manner, very similar to Governors Island in New York Harbor. Over the years considerable time and effort has been made in maintaining and protecting the historical context of the area; in fact, the Town has been part of some of these activities. The current residents acquired their properties no doubt with the expectation that the basic layout as reflected by history and zoning would remain. Given the historical aspects of the area, this is neither an unreasonable nor outlandish expectation. This proposal destroys that and shoe-horns housing for 24 or more people into a dead-end parcel that is completely out of character with the entire Fort neighborhood.

Over the years, Walsh Park has done an admirable job in developing and protecting the year-round housing stock, and the almost-completed apartment block over the freight office is a superb example of creative thinking and action. I would hope the request for the rezoning will be rejected, as I am sure that the same creativity that has brought WP's other projects to fruition can develop a far more sensible and sensitive alternative to this.

Very truly yours,

