

JOHN W. METTLER III  
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February 12, 2020

Southold Town Board  
c/o E. Neville  
Southold Town Hall  
53095 Main Road  
Southold, NY 11971-6959

**RECEIVED**

FEB 18 2020

**Southold Town Clerk**

Dear Members of the Town Board:

I am writing to share my thoughts on the Walsh Park organization's application for a change of zoning on land currently owned by the Fishers Island School District.

I am a long time property owner and seasonal resident of Fishers Island. During my five plus decades on the island I have been a supporter of and actively involved in numerous organizations looking to sustain the viability and the character which makes Fishers such a special place. This included serving for many years on the former Civic Association board (the precursor to today's Island Community Board). During my time on the board (and as part of Long Term Planning Committee that it formed) I was convinced time and again of the importance of fostering and supporting our year round resident community as a foundational element of Fishers Island's future.

One of the crucial elements of that was determined by the Committee and reinforced subsequently by the Yale study was a need to develop affordable higher density housing for our year round population.

Walsh Park has an almost 4 decade record of doing just this. It has demonstrated time and again that its Board and its donors have the island's best interest at heart and that its mission is 100% supportive of the needs of our island community. Most recently its work to refurbish the freight terminal into an attractive addition to the island has served as another example of the positive impact this organization is capable of having on Fishers.

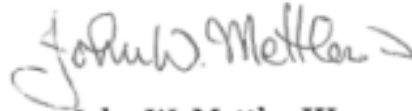
This project would enable Walsh Park to continue to expand the crucially needed supply of year round housing while also having the added benefit of supporting the School District. The location in question is established and

long ago was designed to be high density area (a portion of which is already HD zoned). It is in walking distance to the school and the ferry and it is contiguous to other multi-family structures that have been a part of the character and landscape of the island for generations. I am also aware of no other similarly attractive opportunities for such needed development on the island.

While I acknowledge that some of the surrounding neighbors have voiced concerns, I would urge the Town to consider Walsh Park's track record and its already demonstrated willingness to embrace and integrate that feedback into its development plans. A great example of this is their inclusion of additional restrictions on density far below what the HD zoning would potentially allow into their revised application.

In closing I am writing to share my wholehearted support for this project and the proposed zoning change. Fishers Island need this to support its community, its school and its future, and I can think of no better organization to entrust with this responsibility than Walsh Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Mettler III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a flourish at the end.

John W. Mettler III  
Past President  
Fishers Island Civic Association