

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew R. Ahrens
386 Winthrop Drive, #718
Fishers Island, NY 06390

Southold Town Board
Southold Planning Board
Elizabeth Neville, Town Clerk
Southold Town Hall
53095 Main Road
PO Box 1179
Southold, New York 11971

August 7, 2020

Dear Town Board Members and Planning Board Members,

It was with some anticipation and even more disappointment that we received the agendas this week for the August 10 Town Planning Meeting and the August 11 Town Board Meeting to find the Walsh Park Change of Zone Application SCTM#1000-9-10-10 for the Fishers Island School property listed for discussion.

Walsh Park's application and proposed sea-change in our neighborhood has been a sleeping dog since March 8. The world has changed in many ways since that week. One most evident change is that so many took shelter from the pandemic by coming to Fishers Island this spring and have remained. A good number will be staying and those that are choosing to send their children to school here in a few weeks have housing.

There has not been a proven need for more housing in recent years. While the six Ferry Freight apartments are being finished for the new Walsh Park tenants this fall, there are many current Walsh Park properties that will also be receiving new tenants as the 'shuffling game' is played out.

We remain committed to the general mission of Walsh Park to provide housing on Fishers Island, but under no circumstance do we agree that this project is for the greater good. It was proposed 20 years ago and was deemed inappropriate to plunk a neighborhood within an existing neighborhood by wise, thoughtful individuals on the Walsh Park Board at that time.

Additionally, the money the School would raise from the sale of this property to Walsh Park, should the rezoning be approved, is a drop in the bucket toward the School's capital campaign goals.

The residents of Fishers Island, including the neighbors, have not had an opportunity to voice our opinion or have conversations about this with any Walsh Park Board members or officials in Southold, due to the pandemic situation. We beseech you either turn down the rezoning request or delay a discussion to such time as our voices can be heard.

Sincerely,



Jane T. Ahrens and Andrew R. Ahrens

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