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September 8, 2020

Town Board
Town of Southold
c/o Elizabeth A. Neville, Southold Town Clerk
P.O. Box 1179
Southold, NY 11978

RE: Change of Zone Application from Walsh Park Benevolent Corporation

Dear Members of the Board,

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

I am a life-long Fishers Islander. I moved, year-round, to the island shortly after I was born and attended the Fishers Island School through 7th grade and cherish that time and experience. These days were possible because of the robust year-round population, however in the intervening years, the numbers have declined and as a result the school and community have become more and more stretched. Crucial to the island life is affordable housing and to that end Walsh Park has done heroic work over the last 40 years. My father was intimately involved in its creation and I vividly recall the days when they had their first success. Since, Walsh Park has grown beyond what was originally imagined and has helped create a sustainable, healthy and viable community. They continue to have success and growing demand as seen with the renovated Ferry Freight building apartments. This proposed plan for the school property is yet another important step for Walsh Park and the island community.

I have the luxury of seeing this from several vantage points. As noted, I grew up on the island and maintain many close ties with year-round residents who remain friends from my childhood. I am the past president of the Hay Harbor Club and former board member of the Fishers Island Community Center and the Ferguson Museum. I also currently sit on the board of the Utility Company which recently benefitted from a zoning change with the Briar Patch apartments.

Like any project, particularly where change is involved, there are pockets of people who aren't in favor. Walsh Park has an unblemished track record of doing the right thing for the benefit of the island and have given every indication that they will work with neighbors and incorporate constructive feedback.

To conclude I whole-heartly support this project and hope that your committee will look upon this change favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS', written in a cursive style.

Christopher D. Sanger