

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CouncilMembers](#)
Cc: [Keith Affleck](#)
Subject: Old Schoolhouse Property and STRs
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Happy New Year Councillors!
We hope you had a relaxing time off over the holidays.

Back story

Our very first house in 1992 was 55 Sullivan. We thought we won the lottery, being able to live on the lake, as a soon-to-be, newly married couple.

We had to sell a few years later and missed village life immensely.

It was a dream-come-true to be back on the harbour and in the village when we purchased and started our build on 67 Sullivan in the fall of 2015.

We love the improvements that the town has made to the area, the marina upgrades, park and walkways to the beach, the well kept green space and garden at the old schoolhouse, and overall, houses being fixed up. The village has been a diamond in the rough for so many years and it's finally starting to shine.

The Problem

The Old Schoolhouse property has been declared a surplus and a deal with a developer to turn it into short term rental (STR) units has already happened. This is very disappointing to say the least.

- Why not put it up for tender?
- Why the secrets about the deal and what is to happen with the property?
- Why change the zoning to accommodate this secret developer without input from the residents that this will effect?

The Old Schoolhouse is one of the historical pillars of Colchester, that we, along with many, would hate to see lost. We hear the purchaser is planning on keeping it, but who's to say that they actually will once they start developing?

The STR development is a whole other issue that we have already brought forward to Councillors Bondy and Bjorkman, and sent a previous email to all councillors. We won't get into all of those issues in this email, but we ask that council, strongly considers putting a bylaw in place with procedures to regulate these STRs. This is happening all over the province, Canada, and in the USA. The problems aren't new and other municipalities are creating bylaws to eliminate many of the problems that they are having. Let's be proactive, before it tarnishes our municipality.

The start of a solution

- Please think about putting a moratorium on any new STRs until council can get a bylaw in place to license and regulate them.
- Get the Old Schoolhouse declared a Historic building so it can't be torn down and encourage a committee to raise money and help turn it into something that the whole community can use.

- If you still feel the need to sell the property, do the fair and responsible thing and list it to get the best price for the municipality.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions please feel free to email us back.

Heidi and Keith Affleck
67 Sullivan Street

