

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CouncilMembers](#)
Subject: Surplus Land- Colchester Schoolhouse
Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 1:23:03 PM

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To: Council Members, Town of Essex

From: Dennis and Anne Beneteau, 53 Sullivan St.

Date: January 5, 2021

We are writing to **object to the sale of land deemed surplus** by The Town of Essex in December, 2020, to be developed for short term rentals at the current site of the Old Schoolhouse, 295 Bagot. St.

Our objections are based on several factors:

- **Business.** Our Bed & Breakfast is situated just south of the property. If 10 or more "boutique" rentals become available in the same immediate vicinity, this will effectively render our business unnecessary and redundant. Our current lovely sight lines from our guest rooms that overlook the old schoolhouse and church will be lost.
- **Loss of green space.** The green space surrounding the schoolhouse is important to the local residents. From children playing there to the community gardens, they foster positive personal interactions that create community caring, for example, the community garden situated there has seen lasting friendships develop and care provided to the area through food sharing.
- **Change in the culture of our neighborhood.** The Sullivan St. corridor, from Colchester Park to Christ Church, Anglican, is a significant route of meandering travel. Whether in a car, walking, jogging, or cycling many, many locals and visitors enjoy a stroll into this historic space where a certain peace seems to exist. Catching sight of Chimney Swifts coming home to roost, Osprey flying overhead after fishing, and the echo of past generations is available to those who seek it. Adding increased housing, traffic and additional parking demands in this area will deter the quaint village atmosphere that is offered and desired here.
- **Property Value.** Placing an extensive set of short term rentals immediately behind our property will vastly decrease the value of our space.
- **Personally.** The loss of privacy by increased visitor traffic into our neighbourhood cannot be underestimated. We have a teenage granddaughter living with us who will be at increased risk should this development happen. We have noticed the effects of houseboat rentals and increased short term rentals on our neighbours to our west and do not desire for this to trend eastward. People having a "good time" often leads to inebriated individuals with poor behaviour. Having to voice community expectations of mutual respect and acceptable guidelines constantly (to those inebriated or not) is wearing over time. Calling the Police for intervention deteriorates the soul. We are also disappointed that our letter of about five years ago requesting acquisition of the lot

immediately north of us has not been honoured. At the time, the Town was not planning to sell any portion, but expressed that should that happen, we would be contacted. To date, that has not occurred.

We would expect that, based on our perspective, you can see our concern. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of our message. We trust you will make an informed decision that works in our best interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis and Anne Beneteau