



Casey Thayer <cthayer@franklinma.gov>

Fw: St. John's Affordable Housing Project

1 message

Bruce Hunchard <bruce.hunchard@yahoo.com>

Wed, Nov 23, 2022 at 8:40 PM

To: Casey Thayer <cthayer@franklinma.gov>

Casey,

This was sent directly to me. Please add it to the submissions for Pleasant Street and distribute it to the other members.

Bruce

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Begin forwarded message:

On Wednesday, November 23, 2022, 5:40 PM, FFC Rev <ffcrev@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Hunchard,

I moved to Franklin two months ago today, and now reside at 183 Main Street in the parsonage of the Franklin Federated Church. In my role as pastor there, I am involved with the Franklin Interfaith Council. I was so excited to hear about the proposal by St. John's Episcopal Church to build 64 affordable housing units on its land and wanted to express my support for the plan, as I am unable to attend the Zoom meeting on Dec. 1.

To me, this project is an inspiring model of how to put faith into action. It is part of the holy work of bringing God's justice and love into this world - on earth as it is in heaven. It is particularly striking in the way it is focused outward rather than on institutional survival. It serves the community rather than itself. It addresses the injustices of the housing crisis by providing affordable, safe and decent places to live - a basic human need - and honors family connections. Communities and families are stronger when supports are in place, and it should be a manageable option to continue to reside in the place where one was raised. This project will provide that option to many who have had to leave, or *would* have to leave Franklin because they can't afford to stay.

Care has been taken in this plan to improve access to the nature paths and recreation of Del Carte, and to conserve much of the natural habitat (3/4 of their land!). They will be using green building practices as much as possible. I can't help but think that for-profit developers would do things very differently. Though St. John's would likely make more money on a sale of the land to such a developer, they are putting their mission goals ahead of income goals - ahead of self-preservation. This town is blessed to have such a faithful and self-giving church, and I pray that Franklin Federated will find ways to live out their faith in a way that blesses the town. I am confident that St. John's will work with the town on any traffic issues.

Thank you for reading this letter, and I hope it will be considered as the Zoning Board discerns whether to approve the plan.

Sincerely,

Rev. Doreen Oughton
Pastor, Franklin Federated Church
978-846-6498
183 Main St, Franklin, MA

2022 DEC -1 A 11:00
TOWN OF FRANKLIN
TOWN CLERK
RECEIVED