

Carrie Fairley

To: Corrina Giles; Bill Abbotts; Ellen Anderson
Subject: RE: Affordable housing request

Hello Corrina

Could you please add this letter to the agenda for the Monday meeting and please copy the mayor, deputy mayor and council.

Good day Mayor, Deputy Mayor, council, staff, and members of the public

Affordable housing crisis

We are writing you today about our declared housing crisis. As we all know, along with numerous other municipalities in Grey and Simcoe counties, Ontario, Canada and the world, the Town of the Blue Mountains has a desperate affordable housing crisis. This is not a new problem. It is a problem that has not been adequately addressed over the last number of years, especially more recently. Unfortunately the lost opportunities of King Street East and the Campus of Care would have provided heads in beds. The Provincial and Federal governments recognize the crisis and there have been opportunities for funding support and bed allocations that may be lost without immediate actions.

Peel Street North property

Back in the 1980s when Bill Abbotts and I were on council along with Bob Gamble, Frank Loughheed, Gord Pyatt and others the council of the day agreed that affordable housing had become a necessity for our municipality of Thornbury. We looked at various parcels of land, but what we were really excited about was the property on Peel Street North and King Street West, where the tennis court is located. It is a beautiful piece of land that could provide numerous homes for families. With the Georgian Trail so close and the proposed Active Transportation bridge at Bay Street

West families could easily ride a bicycle or walk into town safely. It would have been a wonderful place to raise a family.

Nimbyism before social media

Unfortunately some very wealthy and influential residents in the area of Cameron Street were strongly against having lower income families living nearby. They threatened legal action against the town if we were to proceed. This was very unfortunate and we were quite frustrated at the time as we were not in a financial position to fight the objections.

Through the years other projects or areas had been identified that could perhaps serve the purpose but always with extreme pushback from the local public. It will take a very strong and determined council to stand up against the NIMBYISM and fight for the right to provide homes for our citizens considering what is best for the whole community not just the loud local few.

We are writing to you at this time to formally ask council to please consider the Peel Street property once again.

It is very possible to develop housing that could fit nicely amongst the other dwellings. We believe that this beautiful piece of land could one day be home to many of our working public in the service industry. We rely on them every day but they cannot afford to live and raise their families in The Blue Mountains. The Peel Street Property could allow keys in doors for an attainable housing project.

With respect

Ellen Anderson and. Bill Abbotts

Sent from my iPad