

Perillie, Michelle

Subject: FW: Affordable Housing for Golden Shadows

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From: don bergmann <donlbergmann@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 11:42 AM

To: Tooker, Jennifer <jtooker@westportct.gov>; Dobin Danielle <ddobin@westportct.gov>; Young, Mary <maryyoung@westportct.gov>; Fava, Jennifer <jfava@westportct.gov>

Cc: John Schwing <consultant@westportjournal.com>; Wendy crowther <wcrowther@optonline.net>; Helen Ann Garten <oaktophelen@gmail.com>; jimmy izzo <jimyizz@aol.com>

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To All,

First, I am pleased that Golden Shadows is being discussed. I have raised this issue before and was told by Jen Tooker that it was not on her list of priorities. I also was involved in uses, being the person who introduced the use of Golden Shadows for our Arts Center. Unfortunately, that did not work out. Helen Garten has long worked on this issue and the last I was informed had run out of workable possibilities. All of this past effort caused me to recommend that the house be designated historic in order to preserve its key elements and then sold by the Town to a private buyer to be occupied as a home. My recommendation has received no support. Related to all this are people such as Jimmy Izzo who has taken some strong stands re Golden Shadows. Finally, our Parks Dept. has not done anything to develop in a simple way for park goers the beauty of Baron's South. This inaction is an ongoing tragedy.

As to affordable housing, my guess is Helen Garten has reviewed this. I trust she will be asked to comment on any proposal. Also important is the preservation of the unique qualities of Golden Shadows. Wendy Crowther has long taken a lead in that effort, along with Morley Boyd. I am inclined to support affordable housing. Crucial to any effort is the creation of the rest of Baron's South as a pleasant and walkable park space and the retention of the key elements of Golden Shadows, including hopefully certain aspects of the interior.

My guess is this effort reflects initiation by Danielle Dobin. To date, Danielle has committed herself to affordable housing.. Unfortunately, the issue is filled with problems, e.g. the use of Town land, the percentage of affordable units, development costs incurred by the Town and even the perception that the Hamlet Project was improperly driven by a fear of monstrous affordable housing at Saugatuck. As to Hamlet, no one appears to know when a proposal will be submitted to the P&Z. My sources, mostly anecdotal, suggest not until 2024.

Don Bergmann 32 Sherwood Dr. Westport