

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: January 11, 2024 (after 9:00 a.m.) – January 16, 2024 (before 5:00 p.m.)

January 16, 2024 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

Submitted on Sun, 01/14/2024 - 16:06

Full Name

Nicholas Ristaino

Email

nristaino85@gmail.com

Subject

Affordable Housing

Address

478 Colonial Dr.

Message

Good afternoon, my name is Nicholas Ristaino and I am writing in support of putting affordable housing at the Sherburne School site, as well as other sites across Portsmouth. First of all, congratulations on your recent election victory. It is a clear sign the citizens of Portsmouth trust you with addressing the pressing needs of our community, one of which is the insufficient housing options for people of modest means. According to NH Housing, the state currently has a shortfall of over 20,000 housing units. They predict that by 2030 we will need 60,000 more housing units. Every community must do their part, including Portsmouth.

According to the NH Zoning Atlas, up to 40% of our city is defined as a "non-buildable area" - which is fine, we need wooded areas to sequester carbon and wetlands to absorb our much more intense rainfall. This does limit how many parcels across town can be converted to affordable housing to address our dire housing shortage. The Sherburne site is one of a few the council has looked at for such a purpose, and it is perfect for apartments for our future friends and neighbors. It is a site with easy access to I-95, Pease, and route 33 - while we need more public transit and safe bike lanes as well - it offers easy access for commuters to get to work. The Lister Academy is vacating the site and if left to decay the school - which my siblings attended - would fall into disrepair. Instead, it should be put to good use and there are no other uses better than housing people that need it.

Other sites should also be converted to affordable housing, it is something we sorely need. Gentrification increasingly prices out moderate and lower income individuals, making Portsmouth a city increasingly only for the wealthy. This is not healthy for our society. It breeds myopia and provincialism. Meanwhile, socioeconomic diversity opens minds, broadens perspectives, and enhances all of our lives. Some may complain about the "character" of Pannaway Manor" somehow being impacted by affordable housing. The neighborhood itself was built as workforce housing, nothing could be more in character than continuing to keep the door open to working class people and their families.

When Pannaway Manor was built, the homes had restrictive covenants. That locked out of our neighborhood people who should have had a fair shot at calling the Port City home. We cannot change what happened in the past, but we can make the future better for our future neighbors. We should build affordable housing at the old Sherburne school site. We should build affordable housing at other sites across town. Right now, the "city of the open door" is slammed shut for middle and lower income individuals. Thank you for using Portsmouth Listens to solicit feedback from citizens - professional and health obligations prevent me from participating, but I'd like to make my opinions known to you. In 2024, I hope the City Council I have supported with my vote can deliver the housing necessary to open that door for others. Thank you for your commitment to public service!

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 01/15/2024 - 21:05

Full Name

Thomas Nies

Email

tnies@aol.com

Subject

Solar Energy Panels and the HDC

Address

419 Richards Avenue

Message

Mr. Mayor, Ms. Assistant Mayor, and Councilors:

At the January 16, 2023 Council meeting you will consider a recommendation from the City Manager to refer to the Planning Board proposed language for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances that would clarify the review of solar panels by the Historic District Commission. I urge the Council to follow the City Manager's recommendation. In my opinion, this is a better way to address the issue than prohibiting the HDC from considering solar panels.

Tom Nies

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Tue, 01/16/2024 - 12:03

Full Name

Jon Wyckoff

Email

jon9wyckoff@gmail.com

Subject

Climate Action Plan

Address

135 Sparhawk st

Message

Welcome back to a new year and congratulations on your re elections. I am writing as a private citizen and not a representative of the HDC of which I just resigned my chairmanship. As this year starts with the 2 worst rain events in Portsmouth's history, surpassing the blizzard of 78, Mother's Day storm of 2006 and the pre Christmas storm last year, I'm hoping you can all get behind the Mayors Climate Action Plan. A lot has been said in years passed, including the 2018 council policy. We're all aware that last year was the hottest year on record and that the world is finally waking up to the crisis with a new meeting in Davos, Switzerland. When I was younger the terms were different with Ecology being the concern, but one thing we said was "Think Globally, Act Locally" That's what I'm encouraging you all to do! Whether it be Solar panels, electric or hybrid vehicles, charging stations, shutting off unnecessary ball field lighting, getting the Prescott park project going along with the extending of the granite sea wall, etc.etr. Please, we're all used to the flooding at the Dinnerhorn, but when Marcy street becomes part of the river, it's time to act. Thanks and good luck to all. Jon

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes
