

A H C
Albert Harris Center
Your Home Away from Home

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Dear Planning Board,

I am writing to express my support for the Smart Growth District/ 40R Zoning article. Many people in Pepperell pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the town's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. Bold, forward-thinking measures to increase Affordable housing opportunities for our senior population is imperative to living our shared progressive values.

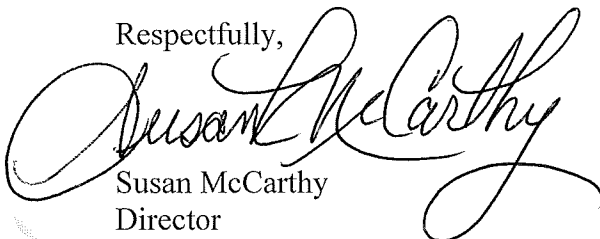
As a town we face a housing affordability crisis, or lack thereof housing at all and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable housing. A Smart Growth Overlay/ 40R Zoning will make our non-profit affordable housing developers more competitive against their market rate competitors. It is important that Pepperell be a leader in affordable housing, by approving the Smart Growth District/ 40R Zoning article and help the residents of all income levels so they can afford to live in Pepperell's beautiful landscape.

Our senior Population is effected the most. Many have been here all their lives and looking for the peace and tranquility that Pepperell has to offer but cannot afford. Often times they have to down size and sell their forever home only to find there is nothing in the community which they have lived in all their lives. We have 4 Foster Street that is subsidizes living and 18 River Road for senior living and many years wait list for both.

One of the Zones we are looking at is the Albert Harris Center Property. This would be wonderful for the senior community and the center. I whole heartedly support all the efforts our community can do to make this a reality for our seniors.

I look forward to contributing my voice and learning more as the conversation about the affordable housing overlay zoning develops in the coming months. In the meantime I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt a strong town wide affordable housing by approving the Smart Growth Overlay District/ 40R zoning article

Respectfully,


Susan McCarthy
Director



Council on Aging