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In Favor of 100% Affordable Options at 5 Auburn St

Ian Mevorach <ian@commonstreet.org>
To: Selectboard@natickma.org

Thu, Mar 2, 2023 at 7:34 AM

Dear Selectboard,

Good morning.

I am writing to urge you to vote for one of the two 100% affordable housing options at the former Eliot School site at 5 Auburn St--proposed by the Metro West Collaborative Development or the Natick Affordable Housing Trust.

In a town where the housing market is becoming more and more expensive, to the point of becoming sharply exclusive on a class basis, we need the Selectboard to act strategically and decisively to expand our stock of affordable housing.

We do not need the Selectboard to facilitate the build-out of another high end housing project in South Natick--as we all know, the market itself is creating plenty of those opportunities.

Instead, we need the Selectboard to act not as functionaries of the market but as moral leaders who see the big picture of how to shape our town into a more inclusive community that reflects our values.

There is no better way to foster diversity, inclusion, and equity in our town. The social impact of any new affordable housing projects in our community will be profound.

Again, this is not a time for the Selectboard to take on the mantle of savvy real estate developers trying to get the best price for a plot of town-owned land. That simply is not the job description.

This is a time for the Selectboard to respond to our shortage of affordable housing and the moral imperative to create more places where middle class individuals, families, and seniors can comfortably reside in our town.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I am grateful for your careful work as leaders of our community.

With gratitude,

Ian Mevorach

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Rev. Dr. Ian Mevorach, MDiv, PhD (he/him)

Spiritual Leader and Community Builder
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We are an inclusive and love-centered community. We value many spiritual paths. We welcome and embrace people of all beliefs and cultures.

We envision a life-sustaining society and cultivate activities that bring peace, justice, and healing to the earth. We find meaning and a sense of community through ritual, dialogue, food, and the arts.

We seek to know and expand our personal spiritual centers through study, practice, and contemplation. We actively support one another by demonstrating love, truth, creativity, and inspiration which flow from our innermost centers.

Please see our online [calendar](#) for a listing of events and programs at the spiritual center.