

Dianne Boisvert

From: Bowditch, Steve <Steve.Bowditch@chesterton.com>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 6:52 PM
To: Dianne Boisvert
Cc: Bowditch, Steve
Subject: [Ext]22-24 Olive Street

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To whom it may concern

I am writing in response, and objecting to, Mr. Sarkis's letter dated 12/30/21.

Mr. Sarkis seems to think that those voicing opposition to his proposed development of the property mentioned above, should not govern your decision. Mr. Sarkis's letter also makes mention of the "amount of noise" from objectors to "freeze the neighborhood in time like a living museum". That is far from the case. Within the past 5 years, several modest additions were made to homes on Olive Street and the surrounding streets. Each of these homes has benefitted from the additions without being detrimental to their neighborhoods.

By my last count, there were two letters of support and fifteen in opposition. In addition, the petition circulated prior to the last meeting, signed by >100 parties echoes the feelings of the neighbors, and other interested parties who voiced and continue to voice their opposition. In all of these letters of opposition nowhere does anyone state that they feel that our town should be preserved as a "living museum". We love our town and our neighborhoods.

I would very much like this building to be updated. With a more modest addition, I think Mr. Sarkis could achieve his goal of profit, and the neighborhoods goal of maintaining the neighborhood's look and feel. However when there is overwhelming opposition to his proposed plans, by abutters and neighbors, I think the board should consider the "noise" as a strong indicator of the wishes of the town's residents being most impacted by this board's decision. This applicant seems to be looking to make the maximum amount of money on his investment. Once completed Mr. Sarkis will walk away from the neighborhood, leaving those of us who call lower Olive St home, to live with the result for years to come.

As a long-time resident of Newburyport I appreciate the work done by this board. I know you must balance the needs and wants of the community and neighborhoods against those of individuals or entities requesting your approval, while striving to find a satisfactory outcome for all. I urge the board to consider the concerns of the many being most impacted over those of the few seeking profit, and deny this request as currently submitted. If Mr. Sarkis wishes to come before the board in the future in regards to this residence I hope he will also listen to the noise, as we too have a voice that deserves to be heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Stephen Bowditch

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