

Ira Bryck <ira@irabryck.com>
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To:

- **Town Council Members;**
- Bockelman, Paul;
- Planning Department Email

Dear members of the Town Council,

Please consider my comments about apartment zoning, and enter them into the public record, as part of your agenda tonight about apartments.

I continue to be concerned about the many zoning changes being made by the town council and planning board. I fear you are making us increasingly vulnerable to the lowest and worst uses of our downtown and village centers.

I am dismayed by your group belief that you are aiming towards a goal state that is wanted by our community, making so many unstrategic downgrades of our zoning bylaws.

I am upset by your ongoing lowering of standards- ie site plan reviews instead of special permits. Each degradation is you ceding more control over Amherst of the future.

Can you please pause, and at least explain to the public what you are aiming to accomplish? I'd bet that most people in Amherst would not sign on to your vision, if you were as clear about it as you should be.

I feel your process is also damaging to the spirit of this town. Your campaign promises for more transparency and democracy are completely broken. The frustration that MANY people in Amherst are feeling should be more disturbing to each of you than it seems to be.

The industry that archipelago and others belong to is invading many college towns. There is nothing unique or appropriate to Amherst about what they want you to do, that you are dutifully doing.

One exception is the "Short North" section of North High Street, in Columbus, near Ohio State. I was just there, and was glad for them that it was thriving, all 2-3 story buildings with businesses on the ground floor, apartments and offices above. Only 1 five story dorm, and 1 seven story hotel. Both of those stood out unappealingly, but my point is Amherst would be lucky to have some of what was happening there.

I'm sorry if I sound edgy, but you seem out of touch with how much people who live here hate what's happening.

Ira Bryck