

Dear Village Officials

I am writing on behalf of the proposed demolition of the McGordon House. My name is Olivia Shea, born and raised in Scipio Center, attended SCCS, graduated from Wells College and got my masters degree from Cornell University. My husband Mark Grimaldi and I rented a home in the village of Aurora after living on Long Island for a few years, and a year or so later my husband and a partner started Aurora Brewing Company. My 3 kids have attended Peachtown Elementary, and currently attend SCCS. I represent the local community and I have been around through all the changes that have happened over the years in the village. Once we moved 2 miles out of Aurora to start the brewery, we searched for years to find an affordable home to buy in Aurora. On October 25th, 2021, I wrote a letter to Robert Cree and inquired about Wells properties that I heard may go up for sale. Below is my letter with his response:

Good morning Robert

I received your email address from Katie Fong regarding some Wells owned properties.

To begin, I am a 2001 Wells College graduate and currently live 3 miles south of Aurora with my husband and our 3 young kids. My husband Mark co-owns Aurora Brewing Company and we currently live on the same property as the brewery. As much as we love our home that has housed us for 6 years, the proximity to a busy business has driven us to think of living elsewhere. We rented a home in Aurora before moving here but have always been interested in staying close or within the village of Aurora. We inquired about many properties over the years but failed to find a situation that worked out for us, or lost the opportunity as homes were picked up unannounced by the Aurora Inns or turned into AirBNBs. With that said, we've heard over the years that Wells has thought of selling off some of the village properties that they own, and I am inquiring about such properties. I've attached two images of homes that are currently owned by Wells. One is at the bottom of Poplar Ridge by the softball fields and the other is north of the ball fields on Rte 90. Both properties are intriguing to us and I would love to learn more, if there is a possibility that these homes may be sold. My husband is also interested in speaking with anyone about leasing out the top floor of the Wells Dock as a small space to sell pints of beer through the summer.

To sell our story, we are invested in the community. We own two businesses, the brewery and a wine shop in Ithaca, who hire from the local community. Our children attended Aurora Preschool, Peachtown and now attend Emily Howland. I grew up in Scipio and spent many of my days in Aurora or the Wells dock with my friends. I worked at the Aurora Inn as a teenager and Mackenzie-Childs after graduating from Wells. I currently help coach track and field at the high school and will be helping with the girls soccer program. We think community is important and we think Aurora needs more families. It's been sad to watch the homes go dark after summer and realize only a few families are left. We may not be rich in funds to afford most homes in Aurora but perhaps some of the older, more "fixer uppers". We would love to discuss any of these possibilities with you.

Thank you for your time and have a great day!

Olivia