

Jim and Ann,

Unfortunately, I will not be able to make the meeting this evening. I would like the following to be read into the public record at the meeting.

My ancestors (Maloneys and Fitzgeralds) have a long and rich history in Aurora, including helping to build many of the current dwellings there. My parents moved our family to Aurora in 1966 and I grew up in the home on Court Street that my father grew up in. I consider myself very lucky to have grown up in this village and continue to spend a great deal of time here.

My wife, Ann and I have owned 17 Cherry Avenue since 2007. We immediately made substantial improvements to the structure and the property and have continued to make improvements recently. We've really enjoyed our almost monthly visits to our home in Aurora. I have never seen the village so vibrant and full of life.

We started utilizing Airbnb a few years ago. It allowed us to earn some money to pay taxes, maintain and improve the property. We also feel it serves a need in the village as there is limited reasonably priced lodging available. The comments we have received, both publicly and privately, have been overwhelmingly positive. Not only about our home but about the village and the area as well. We have had the opportunity to introduce Aurora to many people who would have otherwise had to stay and spend out of town. Many of them have come back multiple times.

One of the "Goal Statements" in our Comprehensive Plan is:

"Foster Small Business Development, especially Individually-owned Small Businesses Useful to the Community, and Diversify the Economy,"

STRs seem to fit well in this goal.

Our zoning regulations specifically states that:

"Commercial uses in this Zoning District should provide goods and services for residents and/or supporting the local tourism economy."

Again, as I read this, STRs fit this as well.

Shouldn't we be discussing ways to promote small business and not limit opportunities?

Shouldn't the Trustees and the village of Aurora be promoting tourism and making it easier for people to visit, stay and enjoy our beautiful village?

The Inns of Aurora already has a monopoly on food and beverage in the village. They will become the dominant option for lodging now as well. People who can't afford their prices will go elsewhere and spend elsewhere.

Aurora has certainly changed since my childhood and I believe largely for the positive. Those changes haven't always come easy for people. Like it or not our village has been discovered and this will lead to some exciting opportunities for people and potential businesses.

We certainly agree that changes need to be evaluated and managed. We are also open minded and reasonable regarding necessary modifications to existing zoning laws as we want nothing but the best for Aurora.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you when we are there for Christmas.

Best,

Mike and Ann Fitzgerald
17 Cherry Avenue
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