

My wife and I purchased 366 Main St from Rufus Bates in 2021 with the intent of using this as 2nd home, a place to relax with family and friends enjoying the Village and surrounding areas.

We have spent many years visiting Aurora and found it enjoyable and relaxing at each visit.

We also were attracted to the rich history of the Village and watched the many changes that have occurred here, with interest.

The house itself is made of good bones and having been partially renovated at the hands of a talented Rufus, it still needed some significant work. Our goal was and is to make sure the house and grounds fit in with the character of the Village. Even though we presently own the house we understand we are caretakers of the future. We have tried to comply with the preservation rules regarding the exterior of the house and property. We also made a significant investment in the interior and exterior of the house and grounds, with a lot of sweat equity. Including installing a geothermal heating cooling system and electric charging station which we feel is an investment in future generations. Our goal is to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels. I believe this benefits the Village as whole now and into the future.

Our purpose of investing in the property is not for financial gain (which is highly unlikely) but to provide us with a comfortable place to stay but just as importantly to contribute to the Village's future.

Before we bought the house, I did some research into short term rentals and inquired of the Village code enforcement officer at the time if there were any restriction on STRs. He informed me there were not, he also did not inform me the Village was considering restrictions. I was surprised and shocked when reading your minutes from your November Board meeting that a STR law was being introduced. As I am sure you know I have requested through FOIL more information on the process behind this, unfortunately I am told I won't be able to get this information until the end of the month, after this meeting.

For the last 2 years we have done short-term rentals on a limited scale, using Jacci Farlow to manage the process. During that time, we have received no complaints from the Village government or neighbors about any noise or disturbances.

Renters have been folks connected to the Village or others experiencing the Village for the first time. I've been amazed at the connections some of the renters have with the Village including one woman who said she used to come to the house because her grandparents lived there. We have only had positive feedback on the house, the grounds, and the Village.

Why do we do short term rentals? The simple answer is to defray the significant expense of yearly upkeep of the property in an historic district and significant property taxes. The grounds alone require significant investment, and we use local folks to do the work such as Leigh McGonagle of Poplar Point Studios. Do we make money in the process, NO! We have covered only 35% of yearly expenses over the 2 years, this does not include capital or mortgage costs. In 2023 we didn't even meet your required 30 days due to market conditions.

Without the short-term rentals, we will not be maintaining the status quo and will need to cut back on exterior including grounds maintenance.

We also have tried to be good Village supporters to our neighbor the Aurora Free Library by donating significant money to them including a \$1,000 dollar contribution this year when they appealed for emergency funding to cover roofing cost over runs.

I appeal to your good judgement and ask you to reconsider your STR restrictions and to rework the permitting system to make it simple while still protecting the safety of renters and the integrity of the Village.

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