
Fwd: Munjoy Hill

1 message

Jeff Levine <jlevine@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Jennifer Munson <jmy@portlandmaine.gov>

Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 4:58 PM

For the Munjoy Hill file.

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From: **Elizabeth Streeter** <streeter.beth@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 3:59 PM

Subject: Munjoy Hill

To: jlevine@portlandmaine.gov, bre@portlandmaine.gov, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, kcook@portlandmaine.gov, Justin Costa <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, jcosta@portlandmaine.com, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Munjoy Hill <info@munjoyhill.org>

I am a 12 year resident of Munjoy Hill and am very upset by what is happening here. I want very much for the City to consider this as a living neighborhood not a business deal to make. Of course people want to make money when they sell their houses, so they can afford to buy elsewhere. But to have so many people using this area as a commercial enterprise is causing it great harm. We are loosing green space and trees, beautiful old houses, and, as the buildings go higher and higher, the sky and light. We are losing a neighborhood, as condos with part timers take so much of our community. I overheard one such person saying that they have another home in a lower tax state where they can live for 6 plus months, in order to avoid the taxes here - just use us!

I live in an area where there is some very attractive new construction, some OK but out of scale and character construction, and some good remodeling. And there have been some tear downs of good or reclaimable houses that have been replaced with very ugly buildings that have poor design and completely cover the lot and take down trees to do so. I certainly don't object to well designed modern construction, but these out of scale buildings are not for a friendly neighborhood. No welcoming front doors or landscape or gardens! Soon will there be any "hidden gardens" for our loved and anticipated tour?

Some building sites make terrible neighbors! How long should it take to build? Do we have to have demolition sites in our neighborhood for months and months? They make our sidewalks unpassable and our parking spaces unusable. Are they not an attractive nuisance for kids?

And, of course, the new building is expensive. And as a result of that the "desirability" of the neighborhood is increasing and rents are skyrocketing! Many people can no longer afford to live here! Only the more affluent can move into what was a diverse, vibrant, interesting neighborhood. Speak to the people running the shops, the working people, who have to move or can't find housing here. What kind of a neighborhood do we want?

I want to ask for some standards. Standards on what can be demolished and how, standards on how big and wide and high the new construction can be, standards for design, and standards for the quality of the construction.

Thank you for your consideration.

I admire the City Council and all the hard work you do. I am continually amazed, when I go to meetings, at the breadth and depth of your investigations. I greatly appreciate your service.

Sincerely
Elizabeth Streeter