

Late Item: Received at Meeting

B1

TO: The Honorable Town Council

FROM: Alayne White

LEGAL ADDRESS: 11 Constitution Street
Bristol, RI 02809

RE: Robin Rug Project/ Bristol Yarn Mill

B1J

I respectfully submit my support of the density changes for the building from 98 to 127 units.

Though I don't fully like the amendments to the size of the parking spaces from ten feet to nine feet, I do feel that the number of units is reasonable. I would like conditions in place to ensure no future building of any kind will occur in the lot on the east side of Thames Street.

I understand the worry from the local residents; the quality of life on our small and intimate street will change drastically and I agree with some of their concerns. The traffic and the parking are two areas that need much more discussion. However, for the purpose of this supporting letter, I will make my points from a business perspective rather than as a resident.

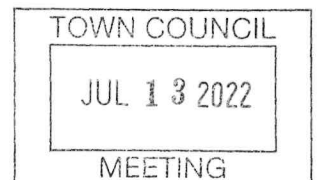
As a lower Constitution Street building owner for the past ten years, but a business owner for the last twenty-two years in downtown Bristol, this project is good for business. I started my business in the year 2000 on State Street and in 2002 moved to the brand new Bristol Harbor Inn. Stone Harbor was not even in the building phase then.

Stone Harbor has been an economic boom for our town, but the population is mostly seasonal and mostly older.

When I look around at the many meetings and events I attend in our town, when I look at the hundreds of walkers who make their way past my business daily, what I notice is an aging population (myself included and likely at the time of reading this letter, take a look around the room:).

Our town is aging and our younger people, those under forty who are working from home and starting families, struggle to find places to live. Many have the money to afford these apartments, there are just none to live in to make their homes in.

Many young twenty and thirty somethings have excellent paying careers yet struggle to find places that offer a quality of life. My son and his many friends fall into this category. Many would have stayed in Bristol if there had been quality apartments to lease while they navigated their twenties with jobs that can easily afford these apartments.



Even prior to Covid, there was a working from home trend with our younger people, Covid only enhanced this. People learned that a quality of life coupled with their work environment make for a happy life.

But Bristol just does not have apartments for this segment of the market.

This segment of the market is a future anchor of our town. Young successful single people, working people, single women who have their own economics and young couples where both people work will create a new and much needed energy to this town.

We must take this into consideration as we look at the future for the businesses in our town.

Bristol is not an easy place to do business in, it is hard to access being a peninsula. My business runs by appointments and for those clients coming anywhere further than Warren, Bristol and Portsmouth, it can take upwards of an hour to access this small corner of the town for their appointment. And we all know that any commute that takes longer than ten minutes is an overnight trip for us quirky Little Rhody residents.

We need to attract more residents who live and work in our town. Ultimately this will create much more business for our businesses.

Will this change the landscape of our quiet corner? Absolutely. But changing the ability for people to live and thrive in the downtown area will be good for business.

Our downtown is charming because there is life and energy in our downtown not just because of the residents who live here, but because of the businesses who try with all their might to do business.

I am a ten-year newbie to lower Constitution Street. The neighbors, who are full time Bristol residents and have lived here for multiple generations, are concerned about the loss of the street as they know it. This weighs heavy and I support their passions, their thoughtfulness and their commitment. I feel ultimately, though that allowing for these apartments will be a great asset to our sleepy town to create year-round economics for more than just the three weeks leading up to July 4th.

Please support the changes so we can get this project off the ground and move on with living the lives we want to live while we are living.