

September 8, 2021

To Whom it May Concern and
Bainbridge Planning Commission

RE: The proposed development of townhomes on Wintergreen.

I am writing to you today to voice my endorsement of the project on Wintergreen and others like it that can and should be included in any growth plan for Bainbridge Island.

Bainbridge Island NEEDS much, much more affordable housing for both purchase and renting. The need is critical. The reasons are many. I believe you've probably heard them all. Sometimes the "rules" need to be bent for the greater good. The line in the sand is always moving whether as a result of the tides, or ideas or other things; our ideas and our compassion could also change along with those tides and other things without detriment to our community. I believe affordable housing is a clarion call for us to do more than just talk about change.

We are long-term residents and property owners on Bainbridge (23 years – seems like a lifetime). Frankly, had we not retained our home here by renting it out when we departed for other adventures, and the turbulent years, we would not be able to be living here now, it has grown very expensive and frankly unaffordable.

When we are ready to "downsize" into a one-story single -family home, we may not be able to stay due to the unaffordable nature of any housing on this island for purchase or rent.

This would not only be a pity because we love it here, it would also be challenging on many levels, including finding new health care providers, pharmacies, grocery stores, libraries, senior centers, beautiful places to walk, and much, much more.

I'm requesting that you make appropriate and reasonable accommodations to this project, and more should they come up, so that more young people, more people who work locally, and more older people can join, live nicely, and stay in this community.

Please don't contribute to Bainbridge Island just being an enclave of the financially very well off, that is just not vibrant enough!

If restrictions are truly required, how about making developers who wish to build "mini-mansions" have to contribute somewhat large sums to build affordable housing on the island. Those sums could be held/administered perhaps by Housing Resources Bainbridge, who I think have proven that they are a great steward of the interests of our community and the vibrance that comes from inclusion, rather than economic exclusion.

Thanks for your time.



Sherrie Zollinger