

From: **Dibbie Appleton** <dib@maine.rr.com>

Date: Sat, Oct 22, 2016 at 1:58 PM

Subject: Appeal to the Planning Board

To: jlevine@portlandmaine.gov

When I purchased my home on Hersey Street in 1998, I did so on a Saturday. I had found the perfect house in the perfect neighborhood for me.

I moved in on a Wednesday and was absolutely shocked to find cars shooting up and down the quiet street on which I had chosen to live. The moving van was large enough that it took up about half of the street width and cars piled up waiting to get past, going both directions. It was a real disappointment. Meeting a new neighbor, I learned their dog had been run over by a speeding car on the street.

Well, I have learned to live with the congestion. My neighbors and I for years petitioned our representative Cheryl Leeman to help us get speed humps or bumps, but we were told the street could not have them, mostly as a means of slowing down the cars, but also to encourage many of them to take a different route perhaps.

I have just learned that there is a provision coming before the Planning Board to allow the building of a three-story office building at the top (Ocean Avenue) end of Hersey, with the second and third floors being apartments for rent. This means a lot more traffic on our residential street, tenants of the building as well as customers or clients coming and going to whatever business is proposed for the basement and first floor of this proposed building. Because it is often difficult to get out of Hersey onto Ocean Avenue, this would mean that the additional traffic is likely to come or depart through the length of this one block street, increasing what is already a problem for the residents.

I have seen the drawing of the building on the site. It is a very utilitarian looking, no-character building. You'd think at least that the designer might disguise the building as an old Victorian to help it fit into a residential neighborhood. The stunning weeping willow that would be sacrificed for the building is far nicer than the proposed structure and the tree makes the top entrance of the street look like a quiet residential street. Having an office building there feels like another chink in the wall of our nice family street.

I pray the Planning Board will be wise in its decision making. This is NOT a good move for our neighborhood and it will increase many of the problems of too much traffic, speeding, etc. We have had people move out of the neighborhood because they felt the traffic was a danger for their young children.

Help us keep Hersey Street a residential, NON-business street. Please.

Thank you.

Isabelle Appleton
98 Hersey Street.