



Paul Foley &lt;pfoley@fairhaven-ma.gov&gt;

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## Rogers School - Opposition to Proposal

1 message

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**Adam Dykas** <dykasa13@gmail.com>

Sun, Feb 7, 2021 at 7:25 PM

To: RogersCommittee@gmail.com, Daniel Freitas <dfreitas@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Bob Espindola <selectmanbobespindola@gmail.com>, Keith Silvia <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Wendy Graves <wgraves@fairhaven-ma.gov>, pfoley@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Selectmen, Planning Board, and Rogers Reuse Committee:

I would like to write to express my opposition to the Rogers School Proposal. Although I did not grow up in Fairhaven, I moved here with my wife and young children 6 years ago despite the fact we both work in the Boston area. One of the reasons I like Fairhaven so much is its historical charm. I really hope the selectmen preserve the historical buildings that make the Fairhaven center so unique and attractive to young working families (so much that we will commute over an hour for work just to call this town our home).

Many have posted on Facebook that we don't need baseball fields or green space in the center since we have Cushman Park or the Fort. I wanted to write to inform the selectmen that I frequently use the baseball field to teach my young boys how to catch and hit the ball. Often, neighborhood children will join and I'll help them with their hitting and catching skills too. Our children have also joined other children in the neighborhood to have nerf gun battles and Easter egg hunts. The entire green space is used by smaller children because it is a safe space to let them run. Cushman and the Fort do not offer parents the same level of comfort.

I grew up in Rochester, and I love the fact that I can walk to a park with my children. I would be happy to donate the cost of stone dust to keep the ball field (my children even offered to help with maintenance, but they are 9 and 6!). I would like to see the entire green space saved as many houses in the center do not have large yards. I'm sure many in the neighborhood would be happy to pitch in.

Today, my family and I walked down Union Street to Rogers to try to keep an open mind and picture the large proposed structure. Our Lady's Haven seemed tall to us, but this will tower over that building, never mind the homes in the area. The proposed structure is so huge and looks like a commercial hotel found in Wareham and Dartmouth off of the highway. It does not belong in a small neighborhood. Do you think Marion or Mattapoisett would allow this in their historic center?

I am not opposed to condominiums or town offices in the original school, nor am I opposed to a small development for senior housing that matches the original school (similar to the high school or Our Lady's Haven), but I am not in favor of this proposal nor any other proposal of this magnitude. I also don't want to see the original school torn down.

I hope, for the sake of our town, you oppose this proposal.

Thank you,  
Adam Dykas