



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

**Fwd: [Fairhaven MA] Rogers School Project (Sent by Erica Ponte, erica7607@gmail.com)**

1 message

**Rogers Study** <rogerscommittee@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 9:57 AM

To: dfreitas@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov, selectmanbobespindola@gmail.com, pfoley@fairhaven-ma.gov, wgraves@fairhaven-ma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Contact form at Fairhaven MA** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 8, 2021, 9:02 AM

Subject: [Fairhaven MA] Rogers School Project (Sent by Erica Ponte, erica7607@gmail.com)

To: Rogers School Study Committee &lt;Rogerscommittee@gmail.com&gt;

Hello Rogers School Study Committee,

Erica Ponte (erica7607@gmail.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/user/3461/contact>) at Fairhaven MA.If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/user/3461/edit>.

Message:

Good morning,

My name is Erica Ponte and I have lived in the center of town for the last 14 years. Having grown up in a very small town in NH, I quickly fell in love with Fairhaven and its similar small town feel - especially in the center of town. I was sad when Rogers School closed knowing that my children would not attend this school however, I feel that our town did a wonderful job in building Wood School. I have hoped for the last few years that something for our whole town to enjoy would take over the school building but I have not yet seen a proposal come forward that would create a rec center type of facility.

I am disappointed in the project that is currently being considered. This project proposes a building that is far too large for that area and does not keep in line with the historic and small town residential feel of the center of town. While I realize that the building will fit physically, it does not fit aesthetically, to say the least. It will tower over most other buildings in town. In this part of town, lots are small and close together. Parking and traffic is already challenging. This quantity of apartments would generate far more traffic and parking concerns for the residents already settled there. I understand that there is a parking lot proposed with the building but this only accounts for residents and likely only 1 vehicle per apartment. This does not take into account their guests or two vehicle homes.

At present, the building is proposed as 55+ however, in 15 years when the developer is able to sell, the town will have no control over who the property is sold to or what it is used for. This concerns me greatly. These could become family apartments bringing more kids to our already full schools, among other concerns.

I feel strongly that this is a 1 and 2 family home area of town. Having grown up in a small town that also is home to a college, I have witnessed first hand what these apartment type buildings look like within the small town setting. Dormitories in my town were at least kept to the outer edges of town and not right in the center of single family homes and therefore did not greatly detract from the small town feel of the town. You cannot get much more central than the Rogers School lot and truly not the place for an apartment complex of that size.

As a homeowner, I am concerned for my property value if this project were to move forward. As a prospective buyer I would be moving into the center and paying a premium for such in order to live within the current feel that is there now. If I wanted to live in a city with high rise apartment complexes, I would move to one. Prospective homebuyers will find my home less desirable with this change in neighborhood feel and therefore decrease the value of my home.

In regards to the Rogers school lot itself, my family utilizes this park frequently. It is a well-loved part of the center of town. To reduce it in size would be a shame. As a taxpayer and resident, I would like to see the building refurbished and made available for residents' use. A gym space for local youth sports teams, additional town office space, a meeting space available for rent, etc. I admittedly do not know the cost of rehabbing the building however, I would be interested in seeing proposals for this.

And finally, if a building for town use is not an option, I would prefer the building be demolished and the entire area restructured into a full park for the town to enjoy. While I love historical buildings and the charm they bring to our town, I understand that turning this building into apartments will require adding an additional, enormous, building and apartments to that which just doesn't fit. It would be a disgrace to see something of that size added there and quite honestly, it would detract from the historical aesthetic and aspect of rehabbing the building in the first place. The new portion would greatly overtake the old and defeat the purpose of rehabbing the school.

I strongly urge you not to move forward with this project. I appreciate you taking the time to consider my thoughts and concerns on this matter.

2/8/2021

Town of Fairhaven Mail - Fwd: [Fairhaven MA] Rogers School Project (Sent by Erica Ponte, erica7607@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Erica Ponte  
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Fairhaven  
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