

Jamie Francomano

From: Ben Hooper <bnhpr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 8:29 PM
To: Jamie Francomano
Subject: Fwd: Please Read...we need your support!

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>> FYI

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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: gordleysmith@roadrunner.com [<mailto:gordleysmith@roadrunner.com>]

>> Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 9:34 AM

>> To: Trish

>> Subject: Please Read...we need your support!

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>> Hello Friends and Neighbors,

July 27, 2012

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>> Please read the information below concerning the demise of one of Belfast's beautiful homes on the National Historic Registry. We are in need of concerned friends and neighbors to respond to the following by supporting the community alliance opposing the devastation of a beautiful historic home and quiet neighborhood. For more information you may view the initial July 11th Planning Board meeting regarding this issue on the Belfast Community TV Cable Channel 2.

>> The meeting will be on Mon., July 30th, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM, at #171 High St. (Mall on High St.) @ Beth Tracy's Pilates Studio.

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>> The Admiral William Pratt home, 212 High St., one of Belfast's most historically significant homes is under assault. The Pratt home, an elegant Federal structure with Greek revival additions was built during the war of 1812 by the first mayor of Belfast, Ralph Johnson. It is currently under a purchase contract to be turned into a daycare center housing forty, two to four year old, children. The property design plan was presented to the Planning Board of Belfast on July 11, 2012. The plan presented was to create a small private school, however as the presentation progressed it became apparent the actual intent was to change this intimate historical jewel into a large busy daycare center / preschool.

>> The plans include creating an access road to High St. of twenty-four to thirty feet in width and or a cut through road from High St. to Waldo Ave. Nearly one hundred cars will enter and exit the premises during peak traffic hours on High St. and Waldo Ave. thus increasing congestion and potentially endangering drivers and children. This also must be accessible to school buses, fire trucks and ambulances. In addition to the unpleasant chaos during the day, the entire access road will be brightly lit during the night. The cut through road will also create additional flooding problems for the residents on Primrose Lane. In regards to the homes beauty and historical integrity, the existing one hundred year old landscaping will be deforested, charming gardens removed, and the picturesque lily pond filled in. Wheel chair ramps, property dividing stockade fences and a playground surrounded by chain link fencing are also included in the proposal.

>> The plans for usage of the home's interior have yet to be presented. The time-honored single-family estate will be forced to cope with the state code mandated interior changes that will allow it to accommodate forty young children.

>> We as neighbors, historic preservationists, and concerned Belfast citizens must stop the proposed misuse and damage of one of our community's historic masterpieces. We must act quickly. The Planning Board of Belfast will meet August 8th, 2012 at PM to discuss the fate of the Pratt Home.

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>> Sincerely,

>> Terrance & Beth Anne Smith