

From: Emily Beers
To: [Rockport Planning](#)
Cc: [Clare Tully](#); [emily beers](#)
Subject: Letter re: hotel building
Date: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 10:29:01 AM

To Orion Thomas,

Fifty years ago my family put down roots in Rockport. It was a very intentional decision to be here, driven by the desire to live in an area where quiet, privacy, and history was respected and honored. The low rumble of diesel engines of the lobster boats early in the morning is a comfort -- a reminder of the generations who have kept Rockport a working harbor. The soft notes of chamber music coming from the historic Opera House have been enjoyed for decades. The silent blackness of the harbor at night, save for a few lights on boats and at the park, has for decades been a gift; it is the stillness that gives one a gentle nudge to look up at the stars and listen to the nightly music of the harbor -- the creaking of the boats as they rock gently back and forth, people enjoying evening walks, the waves whispering, a dog barking...

These sounds and sights are disappearing at an alarming rate. The piercing sounds of saws and hammers are a constant reminder of new houses being constructed and remodeled. Houses that are appearing in places where the once empty space and views could be enjoyed and appreciated by anyone. Now those spaces are filled with houses where the views will be enjoyed by a select few -- for a few weeks a year.

And now, a Goliath hotel. A project that was misrepresented from the get-go, and one that has rapidly become fraught with deception, double-dealing and the threat of destroying part of the visual history of Rockport and her community. If this hotel is constructed, the view that has made people stop and take a moment to truly appreciate and imagine what was, will be gone. Forever. The scene that has been one of Rockport's many gifts to everyone will instead be replaced by brick and steel, with a manufactured, controlled view from a permanent structure -- for a price. Ironic how people will now have to pay to look out a window at the harbor, when it is really a view that has always been and should always be for everyone. Seems to me the price someone is going to pay to look out a window pales in comparison to the price the people of Rockport are going to pay to lose this precious area.

The visual impact of this hotel is just the beginning of a chain reaction that will change Rockport forever. Gone are the quiet days and evenings sitting outside listening to the gulls or the harbor sounds. No more quiet, thoughtful walks anywhere near the harbor. A hotel of this magnitude with open deck dining will bring an immediate and permanent end to any semblance of peace and quiet. As someone who lives extremely close to this project, the construction noise of steel nails on a chalkboard, back-up beepers and human voices shouting (often before 6:30 am, breaking the sound ordinance) will only morph into the steady noise of more and more voices, loud music, air-handlers and fans, food trucks, garbage trucks, car alarms, doors, etc. This does not even begin to touch on the issue of light pollution that will clutter the night sky, the harbor, the park and residences. It will also increase the litter on the sidewalk, street, and park with the amount of people.

I am often asked by people from away if I realize how fortunate the residents of this community are, to view the water every day on our way to work, to venture down to the harbor and study the lines of the beautiful boats, to sit on a bench at Mary Lea Park with an unobstructed panoramic view of the sun making diamonds on the water, to sit in the evening and not have glaring lights shining so brightly as to prohibit watching the stars at night. I do realize it, and with abundant appreciation.

Get your fill of that view now. See it through the eyes of someone passing through for the first time. Listen to the boats. Remember the history. Memorize what it looks like now. Listen to the sounds of the birds, the boats, the water. Look up and lose yourself in the stars. Because if this hotel and subsequent parking area get built, those memories are all we will have.

Please invalidate the hotel permit and send it back to the Planning Board for a fair, informative and honest revision.

Emily Beers

