

ATTACHMENT 1

Forwarded from Board of Finance general mailbox on Town of Simsbury website:

From: Natalie Vasa
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2014 3:47 PM
To: Simsbury Finance
Subject: purchase of house next to flower bridge

To whom it may concern,

I am concerned about the report that the house next to Flower bridge is under consideration for purchase by the town of Simsbury. And that there already is a \$5,000 deposit.

What is the plan for use of this property and does it really make sense?

The trend in recent years to acquire one piece of property and sell off another, does not make sense. We are still paying for the Ethel Walker woods – a sizeable investment. We just sold Pharos farm (without going for competitive bids) to the Land Trust for preserving “Open Space” that the public cannot use.

If we are purchasing the flower bridge house property for river access, I should mention that there is perfectly good access nearby at the big sycamore tree nest to route 185 bridge. Then there is the Simsbury crew team boat dock 1/8 mile downstream. Also on River road another ¼ mile further downstream there is a boat ramp and parking for 1 or 2 cars. Finally, Curtis Park is a very nice place to access the river.

Has anyone considered that in addition to the cost of the house purchase plus the annual taxes... the cost to develop this property, whether it means tearing down the house, plus sitework to create anything further, could put the total expenditure at \$500,000 plus? (rough guess)

I am certain that developing one of the other access points might be a more economical and effective approach to increasing access to the river, if there is even such a need.

In addition, purchasing this particular house could appear unfair. Will the town be considering purchase of all other houses along the river, in the flood plain, as they reach the market too?
Is this plan intended to benefit one homeowner? That would be inappropriate.

People in our town are doing their best through these difficult financial times. We expect our finance committee to spend our tax dollars wisely and prudently. I cannot imagine the urgency of spending money in this way.

The future holds uncertainty and what is important is having resources for when the next disaster strikes. Let's clear away some of our debt and build a nest-egg for hard times and to help those in need among us.

Sincerely,
Natalie B. Vasa
32 Hickory Hill Road
Simsbury, CT 06070