

We are facing a pinch in zoning law and the Board of Trustees.

The Board has already eliminated the maximum lot width for development BUT COULD reconsider this. I know this sounds trivial, but because this change would have really big consequences, we need to speak up now. There are pictures of buildings that would most likely be demolished very soon at the bottom.

Primarily, it means developers could purchase entire city blocks, demolish all the buildings, and put up one gigantic building. There are several non-historical reasons why this seems like a bad idea [including the fact that there are vacant lots downtown where buildings have been demolished and nothing has been built in the downtown], but we should write letters asking them to reconsider and we need to write letters right now. As you may know, the Tarry Lighthouse project would demolish everything from Tandoori through Tarry Market and replace it with a single, massive building over 300 feet long and 7 stories high.

Here is a list of bullet points that you could choose from to write your own letter:

- Demolishing historical buildings destroys our history and takes away from our charm
- Once the historical buildings are gone, they are gone forever
- Development does not have to mean destroying historic buildings - the Capitol Theatre and the old Fruit of the Loom factory are excellent examples of re-purposing, rather than destroying
- All buildings on the National Register are eligible for generous federal and state tax credits if those buildings are substantially rehabilitated
- There are two proposed historic districts downtown that could increase property values and taxes
- There are undeveloped vacant lots right now in Port Chester - we don't want to add more
- Port Chester is a destination town right now - we have a lovely, vibrant visitor economy - and a large part of that is our historic buildings
- Building glass and steel boxes that are the length of an entire block destroys Port Chester's historic character and feel
- There is no guarantee this will solve the financial problems Port Chester faces
- There are already over 1,000 residential units in 6 different projects that have been approved and not built - we should see the effects of these first
- South Main Street and the Waterfront development are sad lessons in destroying historical buildings and replacing them with enormous buildings