

Dear HDC,

June 22, 2020

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal to turn Skip Tomassian's home into a sixteen room hotel. Not only are the architectural changes inappropriate for this neighborhood – in particular, the dormers that are planned facing Main Street – but the relocation of the back office will remove yet more green space from Main Street. And, how will little Tilton Way handle the increased traffic of a big new parking lot?

I grew up in the house diagonally across the street from Skip (my present home at 117 Main) and have fond memories of the Høglund family – Axel and Anna – and spent many hours in that house playing with their daughter Joanie. I have enjoyed having Skip as a neighbor and appreciated his maintaining the property in its original context – as a home.

However, I am troubled by the fact that in the mid-nineties Skip was a leader of a pack of us neighbors to fight the Hob Nob's then-expansion. It was argued, by all of us, that it was too big. So, the Hob Nob expansion was too big when Skip lived next door, but now that he's leaving it's not too big for the rest of us who still live here? Well, that is wrong on so many levels. This project is too big, especially in the context of the massive building going up across the street from me at the Ettinger property – these two projects, side by side, represent a huge impact on this neighborhood. But even on its own, the Hob Nob annex/Tomassian project is totally out of place in this historic and residential district.

I vote a resounding NO, specifically for these reasons:

1. Bad architecture
2. Too big
3. A sixteen-room hotel does not belong in R-5/historic district
4. Too much traffic for little Tilton Way
5. Loss of green space

When does this madness end?

If the HDC won't protect us from the encroachment of inappropriate architecture and usage, who will? Enough is enough!

Thank you.

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