



INCORPORATED 1757

Town of Hopkinton

HOPKINTON, RHODE ISLAND 02833

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF HOPKINTON IN OPPOSITION TO H 7062 RELATED TO "ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS"

- WHEREAS, the Town of Hopkinton is a rural community consisting largely of farms and single-family homes; and
- WHEREAS, maintaining the rural and agricultural character of the Town is a primary goal of the Town's State-approved comprehensive plan; and
- WHEREAS, the Town of Hopkinton is a member of the Chariho school district and has no control over the regional school district budget; and
- WHEREAS, the vast majority of property taxes paid by Hopkinton residents must go toward satisfying education expenses; and
- WHEREAS, the Town of Hopkinton has limited staff and limited resources available for other municipal needs such as infrastructure maintenance and public safety; and
- WHEREAS, development in Hopkinton has always been constrained by a lack of public water and sewer services; and
- WHEREAS, Hopkinton depends on a sole source aquifer for all public and private drinking water; and
- WHEREAS, Hopkinton employs a growth management ordinance to ensure that population growth occurs in a controlled and sustainable manner to protect the Town's natural and economic resources; and
- WHEREAS, uncontrolled population growth – especially growth in the number of school-aged children – has the potential to decimate the Town's finances, cause substantial property tax increases, exceed the carrying capacity of the land's natural resources, and overburden the limited resources of the municipal government; and
- WHEREAS, Hopkinton has made meaningful progress toward the goal of ten percent low- and moderate-income housing stock and continues to voluntarily work toward reasonable solutions for the housing affordability crisis in Rhode Island; and
- WHEREAS, one-size-fits-all State mandates are not conducive to solving the unique housing challenges in the thirty-nine distinct cities and towns in Rhode Island; and
- WHEREAS, the use of accessory dwelling units as vacation or short-term rentals would be counter to the goal of making housing more affordable; and
- WHEREAS, the Town has limited monitoring and enforcement resources to prevent accessory dwelling units from being used for vacation or short-term rental purposes; and

WHEREAS, single family homes with accessory dwelling units that are not owner-occupied are likely to devolve into problematic properties that would be harmful to the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 7062 would likely lead to a rapid and uncontrolled expansion in the number of accessory residential dwelling units and residential density in the Town and the number of children enrolled in the school district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council is opposed to House Bill 7062 as presently written; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council respectfully requests that any State mandate for an expansion of by-right accessory residential units should be subject to local growth management and density controls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council respectfully requests that any State mandate for an expansion of by-right accessory residential units should be subject to an owner-occupancy requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council respectfully requests that any State mandate for an expansion of by-right accessory residential units should be subject to a requirement of one-year minimum leases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council respectfully requests that any State mandate for an expansion of by-right accessory residential units should be subject to the requirement of a deed restriction preventing separate sale of the primary and accessory structures;

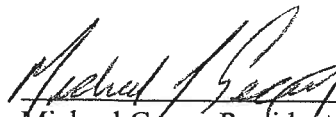
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council respectfully requests that any State mandate for an expansion of by-right accessory residential units should provide the individual cities and towns flexibility to designate size and occupancy requirements tailored to local needs;

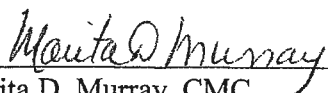
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council respectfully requests that any State mandate for an expansion of by-right accessory residential units should come with technical and financial support from the State to monitor compliance and pursue violators;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect upon passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Hopkinton's members of the RI General Assembly, the Speaker of the RI House of Representatives, President of the RI Senate, the Governor of the State of RI and RI League of Cities and Towns.

Passed as a Resolution of the Hopkinton Town Council this 20th day of February, 2024.


Michael Geary, President
Hopkinton Town Council

ATTEST: 
Marita D. Murray, CMC
Town Clerk

