

Letter to the Editor of Suffolk Times
May 17, 2021

We live in Southold because we love its community character. Key to that character are homes that are in proportion to their surroundings. But we have become a place where smaller homes are being knocked down and replaced by massive ones that dwarf neighboring homes, blocking out the sun and the views. A place where people's children and grandchildren can no longer afford to live as more affordable homes are gobbled up by the McMansion builders. Unlike other East End towns, there is currently nothing in the Southold zoning code to restrict the building of giant homes in Southold.

The time to stop the rapidly changing character of our community is now. And the way to preserve community character is through sensible zoning restrictions consistent with those adopted by every other East End town but Riverhead. That is why the Civic Associations listed below have been working for months, reviewing the regulations adopted by our neighboring towns, and have a specific recommendation for amending the Southold town code to limit the size of houses that can be built in our community. Call it the 'Right Fit'.

In the Comprehensive Plan that the Southold Town Board adopted in August of 2020, they state that "*future planning shall be compatible with existing community character*". That future needs to start today.

The Southold Town Civic Associations have been invited to present our research and recommendation on limiting house size at a public meeting on Tuesday, May 25th at 6:30 p.m. We invite everyone to attend and participate in this important conversation - one which impacts all of us. Please come and share your views. The meeting will be held virtually via the Zoom online platform. For further information, please visit:
<https://www.southoldtownny.gov/calendar>

Regards,

Cutchogue Civic Association
East Marion Community Association
Mattituck-Laurel Civic Association
New Suffolk Civic Association
Orient Association