

From: Dr. Michael Stelluto  
21 Brier Road  
Gloucester

To: Gloucester Zoning Board of Appeals

Re: 12 Souther Road

Date: August 20, 2017

I write in opposition to Dennis Morgan's request to build a second floor on his home at 12 Souther Road.

I was out of town on July 27<sup>th</sup>, and was unable to attend the original hearing. I have heard that attorney Joel Favazza told the Board that I wished Mr. Morgan "good luck", indicating that I was in favor of his appeal. I am not. I remain opposed to this project.

Thirteen years ago, my late wife Janis and I spoke against Mr. Morgan's original request to build a two-story home on his site. We both believed that the proposed home was too large for his small lot, and sited too close to the neighbors' homes for privacy and shading.

When the Board denied that request, and told Mr. Morgan to compromise with the abutters, I thought the compromise was bad for the neighborhood, and spoke against it as well.

And now, I speak against his current proposal, which attempts to undo that compromise. What he proposes is not appropriate for this lot, and not appropriate for this neighborhood.

I ask the Board to honor the compromise that Mr. Morgan reached with his neighbors 13 years ago.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Stelluto, M.D.".

Michael Stelluto

To The members of The Zoning Board of Appeals,

Let me begin by saying I am not a comfortable public speaker so I wanted to write down my thoughts about how the proposed addition by Dennis Morgan at 12 Souther Road will affect the quality of life for me and my family.

As a family we are fully integrated in our community. Both my husband and I sat on the Board of the Cape Ann Food Pantry, Martin holds a community seat on the board of The Gloucester Education Foundation, we both worked with the group Save Our Shores to help preserve a beautiful piece of land for the public good across from the old Ocean View Inn on the Back Shore, we donate generously to The Sawyer Free Library and The Cape Ann Museum. We both donate and volunteer in our public schools, at The Maritime Heritage Center, for The Backyard Growers and for The Cape Ann Food Pantry.

Here in our Bass Rocks neighborhood we are an anchor. Many of the residents are here only in the summer, including Mr. Morgan. In years past while Mr. Morgan was away for the winter we had the courtesy to notify both him and the proper authorities about frozen pipes, a fire in his yard and a burglary at his home- that's what good neighbors do. We are the people who regularly pick up trash on Tragabigzanda and Souther Roads as well as on the Back Shore and at Good Harbor Beach to help preserve the beauty of this special place. We check in with neighbors, even if just for a quick hello in the yard, and have been and can be counted on to help anyone who would ask./ Our children attend the Gloucester Public Schools and our home has been an open stop for all the friends they have met. Packs of joyful children play in our yard all the time and we are grateful for it. We have eyes on what is going on in our neighborhood while folks are away. We trick or treat here on Halloween and invite those who might be far from family to share our meal on Thanksgiving. We have a Christmas Eve tradition of exchanging cookies or a small treat with our neighbors who are here in the winter. /

*SEEKING A NEW PERMIT DESPITE*  
I'm not mad at Mr. Morgan for his selfishness or disrespect of our compromise of 13 years ago, I'm sad. I'm worried. I have seasonal depression and the darkness of a looming gray wall where now there is light frightens me. I'm an artist and my kitchen, which is also my studio, being without sky or light, especially on early winter evenings scares me.

I want my children to be able to sit at our table and watch the sunset in summer and enjoy the warmth it provides us on winter afternoons. That would be eliminated by Mr. Morgan's proposal. His disregard for our compromise is not what good neighbors do.

I want to stay in this house, our home, and grow old. I want to keep participating in our small Bass Rocks neighborhood and larger community but I fear construction like this could drive us to leave. I feel the precedent a yes to this construction, essentially leaving us in darkness and without privacy, would be unchangeably detrimental.

I appreciate your taking the time to listen and your work as a volunteer board to help protect the character of our city.

Sincerely,

Michele Del Vecchio