

From: Heather Hale

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 6:10 PM

Subject: Short Term Rentals

Dear Housing & General Affairs Committee,

I would like to voice my experience with short term rentals.

I think that we have reached a tipping point with short term rentals in Stowe.

I live in Nebraska Valley in Stowe; I have lived here for 39 years. We used to have a neighborhood here. It was one of the places in Stowe where full time residents could afford to buy or rent a house.

It is now becoming a valley of short term rentals. Of the roughly 45-50 properties on Nebraska Valley Road, eight of them are dedicated short term rentals.

Four properties near the end of the road are now all listed on the rental site by the same couple who rent them for short term stays. I knew the families who lived there. They may not have been close friends, but they were people who were a part of my community--sometimes waving as we passed on the road, sometimes seeing each other at community gatherings.

We were a vibrant community. We recognized and appreciated each other. It is disheartening to see my neighbors replaced with property owners who rent to short term visitors who add nothing to our community. It's just a steady stream of out-of-state plates driving too fast to get to their retreat.

We are fast becoming a town that has no room for low or moderate incomes. The homes we were able to afford to rent or buy are now short term rentals. Is this the town we want? No neighbors, no long long term relationships with people sharing their lives; just people renting for the weekend/week/month?

The Stowe Reporter reported that one quarter of Stowe's residential properties are now short term rentals. Isn't it time for our government to take action and prevent the hollowing out of our communities?

These rentals are commercial establishments. I wonder why they are allowed to operate in an area that is zoned residential.

best,

Heather Hale
Stowe, VT