

December 5, 2023

Dear Mayor Sue,

I started this letter by going through the report, taking things that I found insulting and that I questioned, but decided my letter would go on and on. So, I have just included a few paragraphs, sentences or phrases from the report that cause me concern.

“This high media profile, often associated with negative impacts, may also have influence on perception of this use of property”. – This is insulting, indicating permanent residents are anxious about STAs only due to negative publicity.

“The Township has residents who are employed in landscaping, contracting, cleaning and property management who rely on STAs for their income”. What is their annual income from STAs? (Page 2)

“Based on these results, the impact of disruption at an STA can be assumed to have a magnified impact; a single incident can impact the perception by a neighboring community for some time and become amplified leading to a wider perceived systemic issue with STAs”. Again, this is insulting to permanent residents who feel they have just cause to be concerned. This dismisses their concerns as being slightly hysterical. (Page 7)

“However, while community concerns are significant, complaints and concerns made to the Township remain very low, bylaw infractions are negligible and through proactive patrolling work, no issues of note were observed”. Many citizens are not aware that if they do not send a letter, their concerns will not be addressed by council and without letters, nothing happens.

“Tourism was noted to be of importance to community and that STAs are the only form of accommodation provided for in the Township beyond seasonal campgrounds and a small number of bed and breakfasts”. Report says – “and there are no motels or hotels in the Township”. (Page 2) So what about the Shenstone Motel, Waterview Motel, The Inn at Cobble Beach, Springmount Motel and probably others? Do they not count? They are in Georgian Bluffs and they do rent rooms.

“STAs are a valued part of the local economy and support and deliver multiple benefits to the Township”. I disagree with the term multiple benefits. Having someone make the beds and dust once a week for a few hours is not much of a benefit to the Township or the citizens.

Their – “recommendation seeks to support STAs - providing a consistent, high quality and safe visitor experiences - seeks to minimize, reduce and eliminate negative community impacts of STAs”. How is this going to calm upset citizen in the Township after they have been insulted by the dismissal of their concerns by this report? Will this stop STA renters for trespassing? I think not.

Regards,  
Lynne Porter