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Mayor Mary Sennett
Village of Skaneateles

VILLAGE OF SKANEATELES
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Dear Mayor Sennett:

I am writing to bring the Village Board's attention to an issue that impacts bed and breakfast homestays. It's not a big issue in the scheme of things, but it is a big issue to the people who own and operate them.

Currently, a B and B in the Village of Skaneateles in zoning districts A2 and C is limited to renting only two rooms. I would ask the board to consider allowing a B and B in these districts to increase that number to three, assuming the B and B is able to comply with all relevant zoning laws.

Historically, a B and B most likely operated as a way to supplement a family's income or, in some cases, was just a hobby. Today, people who own them usually run them as a business and the money generated becomes their primary source of income.

As a former owner of the Village Inn of Skaneateles, I understand the hard work and cost of operating a hospitality business. The goal, of course, is always to rent as many rooms as possible to offset ever increasing costs such as marketing, cleaning, linen, food, maintenance and taxes. These costs are incurred whether you rent one or the maximum of rooms allowed.

Guests who frequent a B and B tend to be friendly, good people who like to meet new people and love the home-like experience and breakfast when away from home. The village board has already addressed the concerns of community members who have issues with a B and B by restricting the number that can operate in various zoning districts. Is it really too much to allow the existing bed and breakfasts to operate one more room. A B and B has to apply annually for a license to operate and if one is causing problems for neighbors, the license could always be denied. On a practical level, with the new hospitality tax being implemented, being able to rent an additional room would generate additional income for the village.

Thank you for considering my request. If allowed, it would make a lot of B and B owners successful and less stressed.

Sincerely,



Pamela Pidhirny

Lifelong and Village Resident of Skaneateles