

## Ban STRs from neighborhoods

The proliferation of Short Term Rentals (STRs) in residential zones within Groton is of concern, especially with the influx of new EB employees for whom the town is seeking housing ("Groton preparing for growth at Electric Boat," April 1).

STRs attract businesses (Airbnb) and private wealth to purchase homes at high prices to convert them into lucrative STRs. The result is the removal of these homes from the town's housing stock. Thus, working people in Groton will find reasonably priced homes or apartments difficult to obtain. Where will they have to go to reside?

If my neighbor can transform her/his garage into an STR, can't I also open a

small business in my home? STRs in residential zones jeopardize the meaning of residentially zoned areas!

Local businesses will continue to prosper with tourism even if the visitors are lodged in appropriate commercial hotel zones. Neighborhoods will not prosper nor thrive if the houses on their streets become transient lodgings (STRs).

I am not opposed to the concept of STRs. I have used them myself. But I do not agree that they should be permitted, no matter how regulated, in residential zones in any town or city,

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