

"You Don't Know What You Have Here!"

Joan Falcao • Station Rd, South Hero

Election

That's what our visitors tell us, when they visit the farm and spend time in South Hero. The beauty of these islands, the lake, the open spaces, the friendly neighbors, the wildlife, the quiet and peaceful feelings – this is all so different from where they live. It is rare and precious. I think most residents here DO know what they have. That's why, at the "values mapping" event, every group who sketched out what they loved about South Hero said something along the lines of: crossing the causeway lifted their spirits, eased their tensions, and that they entered a different world. Respondents to the town's survey last summer expressed the same feelings for the South Hero they know and love.

And that is why the 2023 Town Plan, up for adoption by Australian Ballot on August 1, is so troubling. It has a vision for South Hero that is very different from yours. This town plan does not follow the survey results gathered from residents, but instead adopts a strident pro-growth agenda to turn our two village centers (page 19) into little cities (page 21) with densely developed suburbs that overflow into farmers' fields. This town plan was written by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (with the blessing of our town planning commission) to promote a state agenda that prioritizes more and more housing. I have attended lots of planning commission meetings, speaking up for what I know residents want, but to no avail. They don't want to hear it from me -- or you. It appears obvious to me that anyone who loves South Hero as it is today should vote "NO" on Article 1 on August 1.

SAVE SOUTH HERO

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