

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

From: Ronald M. Blanchard, Brother
Plenary Guardian for Sandra Blanchard STS Cottage 33

Re: STS Recommendations Dec.. 14th 2015

My younger sister Sandra is a resident of STS and has been in their care for more than 50 years. During this time Sandra, who suffers from severe Autism and has the mental capacity of a three year old, has enjoyed the company of her sister residents and the care of professional, proficient and very kind caregivers. Her medical & nutritional needs are met and she is well cared for in that environment. Sandra has worked in the Greenhouse at STS for many years and thoroughly enjoys the interaction with co-workers and the public.

Due to Sandra's Autism she requires constant adult supervision & care. She cannot cross a street by herself, does not understand the concept of handling finances, food preparation, medical care etc.

Sandra's family is spread across several parts of the Country and due to their situations and age are unable to provide for her needs. Several immediate family members have passed on but those remaining visit often and take Sandra for outings etc.

The family of Sandra Blanchard opposes the closing of STS and does NOT wish her to be placed in a Community Facility .

Recommendation 1: Sell off a portion of STS property to a developer , retaining sufficient area for continued housing of existing residents, play & exercise areas, swimming pools etc.

Justification: The bucolic setting would be perfect for affordable Senior Housing that the State of CT & Town of Southbury is in dire need of.

Recommendation 2: Retain a portion of the STS property for park like settings, walking/biking/hiking trails and playscapes.

Justification: Funding for the aforementioned would come from civic groups such as Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis etc with assistance from the Town of Southbury and State of CT.

Recommendation 3: Create Art Space-utilize some of the STS buildings for music and the Arts, Park & Recreation Departments could fill the unused buildings with people of all ages for arts & crafts, musical events, plays, outdoor movies-the list is endless

Justification: There is a need for all the above listed. Funding would come from Grants & Awards, community funding, civic groups, attending residents-people would flock from other areas to tis beautiful area. If you build it-they will come!

Thank you for your efforts to find solutions to the future of STS.