

June 1, 2020
Jackson Town Council



RE: Please approve the final plat for the Van Vleck Block

Dear Mayor Muldoon and Councilors,

Finally, you are at the last step in saving the historic Van Vleck Block: the final plat. We are proud to support you in approving this plat. From the beginning, we believed in saving the block because it encompasses much of what our community cares about: green space, historic community character, local businesses, and smart growth within the downtown core.

Finishing the Save the Block campaign is a ray of good news among a lot of bad. And it reminds us of what we learned during last summer's campaign: that when we put our community first and work together, we can achieve great and unexpected success. And that sometimes, a community-based effort is the only way to achieve a good outcome when market and development pressure threatens something we love.

Looking back now, we are so grateful that our community came together in late 2018 to say **no** to another massive hotel – in order to say **yes** to our beloved local small businesses, cherished green space, and historic buildings.

And we are grateful to our friends at the Jackson Hole Land Trust for leading that “yes” campaign, and to the many, many community members (including you) who supported the campaign. Together, we have preserved a rare community space, and literally created a home for our local history.

In the meantime, you have also invested in drafting historic preservation ordinances and made progress toward Town Square zoning. We hope the success of saving this block will inspire hope and momentum to protect other important local places threatened by harmful development proposals.

Thank you for your commitment and for doing your part to save the block. Please make it official and approve the final plat.

Best,

Brooke Sausser
Community Planning Manager