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To: Zba@grotonma.gov
Subject: Public Comment on Heritage Landing Proposed Development

To the Zoning Board of Appeals
May 19, 2024

My previous comments have been centered on the degradation of wildlife habitat, to include documented rare species in the immediate area.

My concerns now extend to the threat to human health from factors relating to this development.

First is lead contamination from the shooting range. As proven by the level of contamination at the Groton Center and surrounding properties from the long gone Sportsman Club, this is a critical issue for this development. The soil of an abutter on Spencer Circle was so deeply contaminated by lead that the final abatement by the government had to be the placement of an impervious (?) barrier that was covered by new soil. This property was a fare distance from the gun club. Will this development's soil be tested for lead?

Second are the untested chemical cocktails created by the spraying and applications of herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides and the resulting contamination of the groundwater. It has been proven that the spray from these chemicals is absorbed into the atmosphere and fall to the ground as contaminated rainwater. Mosquito abatement chemicals will be prolific as this development abuts a major wetland. Current properties on Cow Pond Brook rely on wells for their water source. All these chemicals do not go away but end up in groundwater, wells and abutting wetland ecosystems.

Third is the threat from the off gassing toxins from the composting facility, as clearly defined in another public comment letter.

Lastly are my concerns for the town infrastructures. This development will place immense stress on the school system (adding approximately 1 1/2 to 2 classrooms) and on town services already underfunded for optimum levels of operation. There is an approved, enormous development going in on 119 that will already push the town to the max.

Please consider these important factors before granting the permit for this development.

Protecting Groundwater from Pesticides

Pesticides used to control weeds, insects and plant diseases have the potential to contaminate groundwater which is used as a drinking water source. Improper disposal, accidental spills, excessive or inappropriate use, misapplication, overuse and poor storage practices are all ways in which pesticides can contaminate groundwater supplies. Proper use of pesticides on your property is an important step toward preventing groundwater contamination.



Pesticides are used almost everywhere and include:

- ▶ Herbicides such as weed killers, weed and feed products and cut stump treatments.
- ▶ Insecticides such as garden dusts and ant killers.
- ▶ Fungicides such as rose and flower sprays and anti-mildew paints.
- ▶ Rodenticides such as rat poison.
- ▶ Disinfectants such as swimming pool cleaners, bleach, ammonia, pool chemicals, toilet bowl cleaners, flea collars and flying insect sprays.

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