

Presentation to the Zoning Board of Appeals

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Good evening to the board members and representatives of the developers of the proposed housing development, Heritage Landing on Rosey Lane.

I am a PA or physician assistant, with experience in Internal Medicine, Occupational Medicine and cancer research. I am naturally concerned about the impact of a housing development in my back yard, as I'm sure any one of us would be. As a healthcare provider, I also have concerns related to the health and well-being of potential future residents.

Low income folks would likely be moving here in hopes of joining a great town with a great school system. Yet Groton would be ushering them to their Heritage - landing right next to the town dump and the stigma that entails. They would also be exposed to regular loud noises from the adjacent transfer station and intermittent gunfire from the police firing range, also adjacent to their homes. We need to consider the effect of noise pollution on their mental health, which has been well-documented in scholarly articles as potentially triggering PTSD and anxiety.

We also need to consider the well-documented health effects of odor pollution from the adjacent compost facility. These effects are directly proportional to proximity of exposure to VOCs or volatile organic compounds, which are generated by degrading organic waste. These health effects include eye, nose and throat irritation, headache, shortness of breath, fatigue and nausea. This is not an exhaustive list of documented adverse health effects.

I live about a mile from the Black Earth composting plant. There is an intermittent strong odor of rotting organic waste that is inescapable when out of doors or with my windows open. This odor gives me a headache and nausea, and makes it necessary to remain indoors until it passes. Among 100 plus future residents, do we presume no one moving in could have asthma, COPD or a history of migraine headaches that would likely be adversely affected by this strong odor? Could we as a town be subject to a lawsuit after negatively impacting the health of future residents of Rosy Lane?

We who frequently walk on Cow Pond Brook Road remember seeing a front end loader partially submerged in a cave-in ~10 years ago in the area we call the sand pit, the proposed development site. Was this a sinkhole? Did it reach the groundwater? Has the potential for sewage contamination of our groundwater from this development, if there should be a system failure, been considered and given proper research?

As a mother, I would be anxious about the safety of my kids riding their bikes so close to a road with 18 wheelers and other traffic zipping by. Not every child listens to their mother's rule forbidding them to ride into the street.

I am not at all confident that the housing developers have a well-considered balance between their short term financial gain and future residents' long term best interests. Is there truly no better option for a 40B housing location in our town?

It is now up to this board to protect the health and safety of these future residents.

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