

# GROTON TURTLE CONSERVATION

TO: THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE PLAN FOR DEVELOPING 40B HOUSING ON COW POND BROOK ROAD.

GROTON TURTLE CONSERVATION HAS DOCUMENTED MANY TIMES STATE THREATENED SPECIES ENTERING AND ON THAT SITE, MOST RECENTLY A RESIDENT PHOTOGRAPHED A RARE BLANDING'S TURTLE ON THE PROPERTY NEAR CONSTRUCTION CONES.

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL KILLED ON THE ROAD CROSSING INTO THAT PROPERTY TO NEST, WHICH ACCORDING TO TOM DELANEY AND OUR OBSERVATIONS, HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR DECADES THERE.

BLANDING'S HAVE TO BE 20 YEARS OLD TO REPRODUCE AND CAN LIVE INTO THEIR 90'S IF THEY SURVIVE HUMAN INTERVENTION. THEY ARE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A CRITICAL FACTOR THERE.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SEVERAL SIGHTINGS OF A RARE BIRD THERE WHICH WAS DOCUMENTED WITH THE STATE.

THE DENSITY AND LOCATION OF THAT PLAN IS SO FAR FROM TOWN SERVICES , WHICH WOULD MEAN EVEN MORE TRAFFIC IN THE DESIGNATED PRIORITY HABITAT FOR RARE SPECIES. THAT TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT IS BETTER SUITED CLOSER TO TOWN, SUCH AS THE ONE GOING INTO THE FORMER DELUXE PROPERTY.

PLEASE CONSIDER A LESS INTRUSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR SUCH A FRAGILE AND UNIQUE WILDLIFE AREA. BETTER YET, EXTEND THE SOLAR FARM THERE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

DARCY AND ALAN DONALD