

Pepperell Natural Resources Fund

Dear Neighbor,

A real estate developer has purchased about 60 acres of land behind the houses on Bayberry, Heald, Ashley and Chestnut Streets, and has indicated his intention to build possibly as many as 200-250 duplex, triplex and quadplex housing units, with 25% of these set aside for low income housing. The builder is circumventing almost all town building regulations by using a State sponsored program (Chapter 40B). The plan for the first phase, for 44 housing units, has now been submitted to the Pepperell Zoning Board of Appeals.

Although no one has any objection to affordable housing, dropping what is, in essence, an urban project in the middle of an environmentally sensitive and valuable wildlife area, just down the street from Pepperell Springs, is an outrage. The property is within a Watershed Protection District, and the volume of sewage to be treated and disposed of will have the potential to adversely affect the town water supply and nearby private wells. Eventually, there could be 500 cars added to the daily traffic on our already narrow, winding, hilly back roads, and the risk of serious accidents and fatalities will be greatly increased.

Since last fall, over 100 families in the area have attended informational meetings to discuss this project, and identify what means might be available to us to reduce or defeat this proposed development. One option that we are pursuing aggressively is to find and certify the presence of endangered species on this property, and we have engaged an ecological services company to conduct a trapping and field survey program.

We expect to undertake other initiatives, as well as set up a web site, and distribute information packets, newsletters and other printed materials. Our campaign is strictly an unpaid volunteer effort, but we do expect to incur some potentially significant out-of-pocket expenses for the endangered species search, legal representation, and other efforts in the coming months. To cover these costs, we have established the "Pepperell Natural Resources Fund" and we are asking for contributions to help support our opposition to this development.

We know that money is tight all around, but we ask you to be as generous as you can. After all, if this project goes through in its full scope, we will all be paying in ways that we can barely foresee.

Please make checks payable to Pepperell Natural Resources Fund, and send to:

Pepperell Natural Resources Fund
North Middlesex Savings Bank
Post Office Box 307
Pepperell, MA 01463

THANK YOU! from

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John and Marie Linden
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Shawn and Colette Murrin

David Pease
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Tony Reno
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(Fund details: co-treasurers: Richard Potts, Bayberry Street and Richard Ruf, West Street,
IRS ID 20-4779930)