

WATER

What we are doing here is playing with the idea that it's OK to contaminate our sole-source aquifer...a little bit, here and there.

It's not OK.

This is a stance that will lead us to tragedy. Today I read that the Select Board, at its next meeting on Tuesday, December 15th, will consider an engineering study of Pond Village for town water. This is an *action item*, first on the agenda.

Can we all agree that water is our most precious resource? ...and it's free! Perhaps for that very reason we tend not to value it as what it is: the only reason we are able to survive on this sand bar given to us by a melting glacier and being taken away by the salty sea.

We stick our straws down into the precious lens and take what we want, when we want, with no limitation or thought. We expect, and deserve, to think that our officials are at work protecting the purity of our sole source, not abandoning it.

Our freshwater lens is really all we have. But we seem bent on destroying it, death by a thousand flushes.

The ZBA has a narrow, and very specific mandate: they must address what is on their plate, and only that. They chafe at the time that has been spent in mulling over the Cloverleaf project, nearly a year, but don't seem able to recognize the enormity of the risk they seem willing to take with our treasured resource.

The number of units at Cloverleaf is far too great for the site, 39 units, 68 bedrooms, on less than 4 acres of challenged terrain. The septic system they propose is in pilot use at one site, for only 16 months, in a town with different hydrological conditions.

A down-hill corner of the site actually sits within the zone of contribution to a neighbor's well.

The facts about the high level of nitrates in many of the wells of Pond Village were known to officials, though not to the residents, years ago.

The 'safe' level of nitrates for drinking water, a number established in 1968 at 10 mg/L, is now woefully outdated. Based on irrefutable evidence in the past two decades, scientists recommend 3 to 5 mg/L to reduce the risk of many forms of cancer.

There needs to be a town-wide comprehensive study made of every well, every septic system and cesspool, mapped. There needs to be testing of every well. The town should be mounting a search for grants to help pay for the study, and the testing.

There is a committee listed on the town website: The Water Resources oversight Committee. Its members are appointed by the Select Board. It has been allowed to wither. ZBA members, questioned at their last meeting, seemed barely aware of its existence. *It should be the most important committee in town*. It needs to be populated and chaired. This is the responsibility of town government. If the town can manage to orchestrate a state grant of \$1.5 million to bring piped water to the Cloverleaf site it can surely do the same for such a worthy effort.

I recommend that everyone read the mission statement of December 2, 2010 for this moribund committee available online at the town website. It is a voice that has been sorely missing throughout the entire Cloverleaf process.

The town voted to accept the gift of the Cloverleaf site with the clear understanding that it could sustain 12 to 16 units. The town should now have the opportunity to vote on the grossly increased size of the proposed development.

I ask that the ZBA not bring the comprehensive waiver to a vote at its Thursday, December 17th meeting. I urge every Truro citizen who gives a damn to attend, and speak up.

Pamela Wolff

Elizabeth Sturdy

From: Dan Katz <trurodan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Elizabeth Sturdy
Subject: Clover Leaf

Ms. Sturdy,

Pam Wolfe suggested I send this email to you to be read at the Thursday meeting I cannot attend as I am in CT. Also, she suggested I request that this note be sent to select board members, planning board members and board of health...is all that possible?

Many thanks and be well,
Dan Katz (18 Old King's Highway)r

A zoning board of appeals is a land use body in place to grant relief from *land* irregularities that may place an undue hardship on the use of that land, should the land use regulations in place be imposed. Relief from such "shall not be primarily financial" and such relief granted, runs *with the land*.

In the "Clover Leaf Case", such relief is being granted to an individual who will, granted such relief, foul the water that serves an entire community....the system he will put in place is ill tested and needs constant monitoring which *will not be done* and, were it done and failure noted, such failure would simply not be corrected in time to stop pollution of the water lens.

Therefore, without question, granting this applicant relief from regulations put in place to *protect the community from over development of properties*, is, de facto, granting financial relief to one person at the considerable risk to the community that the ZBA must protect.

Sincerely,
Dan Katz
18 Old King's Highway
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