

Ethan Parsons

From: Wil Merck <wmerck@essextimber.com>
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Ethan Parsons
Cc: Nonie Brady
Subject: 55 Waldingfield Rd

Ethan Parsons, Director of Planning and Development
Ipswich, MA

Dear Mr. Parsons -

My wife and I have lived for many years on the Hamilton side of Appleton Farms and are frequent users of Waldingfield Rd. We were very surprised to learn that a property on Waldingfield Rd had been proposed to become a corporate facility.

Such use would be a radical departure from the character that the area has always had. Why is that a problem? Because for a corporate facility to succeed, it must be fed with a high and perpetually growing volume of traffic. Once the corporate landowner becomes an important taxpayer and employer, it's influence will outweigh that of its neighbors. It is a matter of time before the incremental traffic exceeds Waldingfield Road's very limited capacity. When it does, the town will be forced to make the road wider and straighter for safety reasons. This will completely destroy the residential, rural character of the place, alienating the residents, many of whom have been there for decades.

Fortunately the town can avoid that no-win eventuality. We have heard that a group of neighbors are prepared to buy the property in order to keep it in residential use. That is a far better outcome for both the town and the neighbors. We encourage the Planning Board to pursue this alternate plan. Thank you.

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