

FYI

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ACON

# Planning Board revisits development's permit

## Panel considers construction truck traffic

By Nick Pinto  
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ACTON — With residents of the Brabrook Road neighborhood up in arms over construction traffic, the Planning Board this week revisited the terms of the Ellsworth Village development's special permit.

When the board first approved the Ellsworth Village development last spring, it did so on the condition that the developer minimize construction traffic on Brabrook Road, a quiet residential street with many children. Whenever possible, construction traffic was to use an emergency access road that leads to the construction site from Great Road.

But those in the neighborhood say that construction crews have been using Brabrook Road heavily, and residents have complained to the police and the Acton Building Department.

On Oct. 13, Acton Building Commissioner Gary Rhodes wrote a cease-and-desist order to the developers, Ellsworth Village LLC, citing dump-truck traffic he observed on Brabrook Road.

James Fenton, one of the developers, explained to the Planning Board at their Nov. 8 meeting that the steep grade and uneven surface of the access road from Great Road put too much strain on the frames of large trucks.

"Wherever we can, we're using the access road," Fenton said. "For some of the trucks it's just not possible."

Planning Board members stressed the importance of minimizing construction traffic on Brabrook Road, as required by the special permit, but conceded that some trucks may

not be able to use the alternate access road. Board member Gary Sullivan noted that it will become harder for trucks to use the access road as winter approaches.

Fenton said maintaining good relations with neighborhood residents has been a full-time job.

"We've been going crazy trying to work with people in the neighborhood," Fenton said. "We've been building in Acton a long time, and we haven't had a problem with this kind of stuff."

As the meeting concluded, Town Planner Roland Bartl had one light-hearted question for Fenton.

"Your trucks aren't getting the fill from Devens, did you?" Bartl asked, referring to live munitions found in construction fill from Fort Devens used on another Acton site last week. Fenton assured Bartl they were not.

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