

The Board of Selectmen,
Town of Acton,
Town Hall,
Main Street,
Acton,
MA 01720

Nigel and Vera Godley,
10, Wood Lane,
Acton,
MA 01720

September, 8, 2016

Dear Board of Selectmen,

Concord's Proposal for Nagog Pond and Acton's Water Supply

We write (as 42-year residents of Acton) to voice our deep-felt concerns regarding Concord's proposal to install a new water treatment and filtration facility on the shores of Nagog Pond in Acton.

Many residents of Acton have already expressed multiple concerns regarding Concord's proposals, and their negative impact on Acton and its residents. We share all of those concerns, including:

- The negative impact of the solar panels (now no longer part of Concord's plans)
- The placement of an industrial facility (of minimal value to Acton residents) in a precious and much cherished forest and lakeside area
- The impact on adjoining residential neighbor hoods of construction traffic
- The resultant impact of on-going traffic to access the facility and deliver chemicals
- The permanent loss of a unique green space habitat, impacting both wildlife and human life, since the area is much used for walks and hiking
- The destruction and loss of land which has historic native American associations, and possibly artifacts
- The impact on Acton's aquifers and wells of increased water drawdown from Nagog Pond

Finally, it is also clear that Concord wishes to take advantage of its land ownership in Acton to construct an industrial facility in Acton, which could equally well have been built in Concord. We have to question why Acton's green spaces should be destroyed for the benefit of Concord residents.

To these already over-riding concerns, none of which have been satisfactorily addressed as yet (with the exception of the solar panels), must now be added an even greater concern – **the impact of this summer’s drought conditions, and the implications of this for the long-term security of water supply for the entire area.** We are reliably informed that the water level of the lake has fallen by twenty-one inches, and that no less than eight feet of the pond’s banks are now exposed.

This is surely not the time at which to approve the installation of a major facility to increase water use from Nagog Pond, leading to a potentially catastrophic drawdown of this valuable resource. As has been pointed out by others, the Town of Concord does not have exclusive access to the water resources of Nagog Pond. This resource is to be equally available to the abutting towns of Littleton and Acton, at the discretion of the State of Massachusetts.

We believe the prudent course of action for the Town of Acton is to reject this self-serving proposal from Concord and instead urge that a comprehensive water availability and sustainability assessment be undertaken jointly by all three towns which have current or potential future rights to the use of this valuable water resource.

This course of action would also allow for a full assessment of the impact of water use from Nagog Pond on the aquifers which currently meet Acton’s water requirements, as well as any similar impacts on Littleton’s water resources.

Respectfully submitted, Nigel and Vera Godley.