

September 9, 2016

Subject: Request for Acton Board of Selectmen to Deny the Town of Concord permission to install fences behind our houses and cut off egress to the conservation land in conjunction with Water Treatment Plant on Skyline Drive.

Dear Selectmen Green, Berry, Adachi, Osman and Chang,

My family and I strongly and vehemently urge you to deny Concord the right to install fencing behind my house and the houses on Breezy Point Road. The installation of the fence proposed on August 29th will turn our houses into the Concord penitentiary. Eight out of the 13 homes on my street will have fencing running just behind our yards and one home will be encased on three sides by the fence. Property values will plummet.

From an environmental standpoint Concord's plans were drawn up on August 29th, which is after the Environmental Impact Study was done, and there is no mention of impacts cause by a perimeter fence around the entire Breezy Point neighborhood. We fear that nobody has taken into account the environment, wildlife, and wildlife habitat that will be negatively affected. The EIR never looked at the current species of concern, many of which live in the Acton area. We have seen bald eagles on the pond, along with loons. The new proposal has also cut off the Coyote den, where they pup every spring, at end of Breezy Point. Other questions of concern that we have: What are the impacts of a very long perimeter fence on a wildlife corridor? What will that environmental impact be of cutting of the forested area to install a fence? Has that been assessed? Have they done an archeological study of the fence area? Has Concord secured the permission from the conservation commission to install the fence through the wetland and vernal pools?

Along the same lines, is a concern that has yet to be addressed: what are the negative effects of de-watering, especially as modern technologies can potentially prevent the need for de-watering the pond? If the oil and gas industry can lay miles of pipe in the ocean, Concord should be able to lay a few hundred feet of pipe in a pond (Black Dog Welders in NH can underwater weld a pipe together).

From a safety standpoint, the Acton Fire Department has even recently—a couple months ago—used the property of 6 Breezy Point Rd to access the land directly around Nagog Pond. Police patrol the area by driving down the current driveway; a locked fence will restrict and slow down the access for the first responders, fire, ambulances and police. We also have safety concerns about a potential large barbed wire fence so close to childrens' backyards and play areas.

Additionally, we are concerned about the future of the Acton water supply. The 1884 grant from Massachusetts reserved the right for the towns of Acton and Littleton to draw water from Nagog Pond. We're now concerned about the Concord superfund site (1,4-dioxane plume) contaminating Acton's drinking water supply: <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0100550>. We feel it is not in Acton's best long-term interests to give up its stake in the Nagog Pond drinking water supply.

This proposal will cut our entire neighborhood off from the gorgeous hiking trails in both Acton and Littleton. This community protects the water and surrounding land. We are stewards of the land, and we don't boat, swim or fish in the waters. We agree with what the Acton Land Stewardship Committee suggested in their letter dated March 15, 2016:

1. "No fencing around the pond to inhibit wildlife," and
2. "Establishment of an inter-town trail connection between Acton and Littleton conservation land, including Concord Water Department land."

This proposal will destroy the ability for us to have a large, special hiking trail system for our town and surrounding towns and this fence goes against the spirit of the land purchases & swaps that supplied Concord with the land around Nagog Pond.

Again, we encourage you to deny this project for all of the reasons mentioned above and many of the other reasons mentioned by the other abutters of the property. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alissa Weiss".

Alissa Weiss

#6 Breezy Point Road, Acton

