



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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James McCarthy, Chair
City of Newburyport Planning Board
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

RE: Evergreen Commons

Dear Mr. McCarthy;

The Board of Health is writing this letter to you with our concerns regarding the residential development of Evergreen Commons at the current golf course site. We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water sources may be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including storm runoff, road salting, improper disposal of hazardous materials, chemicals and pesticides.

The wells for the Newburyport Water Department are located within the same water supply protection area. Each well has a Zone I radius of 400 feet. The wells are located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers (i.e. confining clay layer) that can prevent contaminant migration. (Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report for Newburyport Water Department)

With the development of Evergreen Commons, there is the potential threat of contaminating the wells through not only during construction, but also in the future with the use of pesticides and fertilizers which residents often use on their own land. Use or restriction of these practices would be difficult to monitor and enforce thus allowing the potential to contaminate our drinking water.

The Board of Health has concerns that the development of Evergreen Commons may have the potential to threaten our water supply and the health and well-being of the citizens of the City of Newburyport.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Health,

Frank P. Giacalone, R.S.
Director of Public Health

CC: Board of Health
Mayor Donna Holaday
Andy Port, Planning Director