

To:

Newburyport City Councilors

- Barry N. Connell
- Sharif I. Zeid
- Jared J. Elgerman
- Heather L. Shand
- Charles F. Tontar
- Joseph H. Devlin
- James J. McCauley
- Afroz K. Khan
- Bruce L. Vogel
- Christine E. Wallace
- Byron J. Lance

Newburyport EAC

- Mike Strauss
- Molly Ettenborough
- Jo Ann Clemens
- Richard England
- Manfred Raschke
- Phil Smith
- Don Walters
- Stephen Wiehe
- Paulina Swartz
- William Clary

Newburyport Planning Board

- Andy Port
- Katelyn Sullivan
- Bonnie Sontag
- Don Walters
- Leah McGavern
- MJ Verde
- Anne Gardner
- Rick Taintor
- Elisabeth DeLisle
- Aiden Clark
- Robert Koup

From: Jason Gousse & Shannon Smith

Re: Amendment to Zoning Ordinance Pertaining to Property Along I-95

Dear Council Persons, Energy Advisory Committee, and Newburyport Planning Board

It has come to our attention that the council is currently exploring options to change zoning laws and restrictions for the parcel commonly known as the old I-95 access road land adjacent to I-95. We understand the proposal is to move from current conservation land to a zone suitable for building and maintaining wind turbines.

As a resident of Richardson Path and the community abutting the old access road, I would like to formally object to proposed change to zoning laws for the following reasons.

The ordinance **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE NEWBURYPORT ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES AND TOWERS ALONG I-95.”** is incorrect, this does impact residential areas and due process of notification was not followed

The zone changes present existential risks to conservation land which many residents of Newburyport and abutting communities enjoy as part of their daily walk, run, bike, hike, and other nature-oriented activities.

The zone change is premature given no studies are available to the public or residents to assess the viability or impact of wind turbine operation to the woodlands and surrounding communities. Noted communities / neighborhoods are: Russel Terrace, Morin Rd, Richardson Path, Frances Dr, Goldsmith Dr, Crow Ln, Storeybrooke Rd, Virginia Ln, Melvin Ct, LT Leary Dr. and the Parker River Clean Water Society.

A perceived lack of due process and notification of representatives and residents regarding this proposal by an outgoing council member with little consideration to long term impacts to residents and protected wetlands for proposed zone changes scope of project, turbine count, and facilities footprint.

There is an obligation of the city council, planning board, and EAC to notify impacted residents and provide the standards, environmental impacts, assessments of: noise pollution, light pollution, and destruction of recreational and conservation areas. Additionally, we request the town fund and provide studies of other communities with similar characteristics to this plan that assesses adverse impacts to community, property, property values and property tax assessments.

A full comparison of proposal to alternate proposals in the community, such as the proposed photovoltaic array

installation on the old landfill and a comparison to the study performed several years ago by Mass Dept of Energy to ID the best places for wind turbines in the state with a full position paper to the site suitability prior to zoning changes.

Further to the above, it is confusing how this plan continues to move forward without a thorough explanation to the conflicts to the proposed bylaws for wind turbines instituted by the state of Massachusetts

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/wind-model-bylaw-mar-2012pdf/download>

A full community hearing for the residents of the City to voice their support or opposition to proposed zoning changes.

It is for the above listed points that we formally request councilor Barry Connell withdraw and rescind the re-zoning proposal to the planning board. Any further pursuit of this plan without withdrawal and due process will result in our retention of counsel to protect our community's interest.

Sincerely,
Jason Gousse
Shannon Smith
6 Richardson Path
Newburyport MA 01950
781.460.1822
jgousse@gmail.com