

Dianne Boisvert

From: Mark Menery <mmenery@gmail.com>
Sent: September 02, 2021 3:03 PM
To: Andrew Port; Dianne Boisvert
Subject: [Ext]Windmill / Rezoning Proposal

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To the City Planning Committee,

This was a message I sent earlier today to many fellow citizens of Newburyport on Councilor Connell's injudicious proposal to rezone protected land and potentially build windmills on it. See below, I piggybacked off an email from Ward 5 Councilor Macauley who has been a great help in this matter. Thank you in advance for listening.

Hey All,

For anyone who knows me, I have never forwarded a message from a city councilor regarding any issue. However, there is a proposal to rezone conservation land and clear hundreds of trees along the I-95 area and put up giant windmills/turbines similar to the one next to the Riverwalk Brewery. If this proposal moves forward (especially the zoning portion of it), it would have a devastating impact on my neighborhood, many other Ward 5 neighborhoods, and our greater community.

Councilman Barry Connell came to our neighborhood last night to talk through his proposal. A few quick comments on the meeting.. 1) he was unable to answer even the simplest of questions regarding any positive impacts this would have on our community. He admitted that virtually no research had gone into this whatsoever. 2) He has attempted to back door the proposal through the council prior to his retirement, leaving our Ward 5 rep (Jim Macauley) in the dark, and not following proper city council protocol. 3) He shrugged off better alternatives when they were brought up as options to help with clean energy and climate change. I am in full support of clean energy and positive impacts on climate change; however, this proposal is **not** the answer.

If you are opposed to this, I would highly recommend sending Jim Macauley and any other city council reps (including Councilman Connell) an email to squash this before it gains momentum. Also, please feel free to forward Councilman Macauley's message below to any neighbors who might also be concerned with this proposal. Please disregard if you are not concerned. Thank you!

Jim Macauley Email - mccauleyward5@gmail.com
City Councilman Emails - <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/city-council>

Note from Councilman Macauley:

I'd like to bring to your attention a proposed zoning change that will affect residents of Ward 5...specifically those residents in Oleo Woods, Russell Terr, Russell Terr EXT, Storeybrook Dr, and Frances Dr., but will impact all neighborhoods.

I will state now: I AM OPPOSED TO THIS.

ODNC83 was submitted for review. This ordinance would change the zoning to allow wind turbines (2-4 @ 100-120ft tall) to be placed along the old I95 roadway. This area currently is the home of the Little River Watershed and Trail system and the G.Brunhalt Bike Path.

While we are all fans of environmentally positive efforts, this proposal is not one of them. This proposal, if approved, would clear-cut this area, wiping out trees, vegetation, habitat for various birds and animals, and would wipe out the biodiversity we've been building for 2 decades.

The anticipated heights would be visible for miles around (think of the visual of the M Richy turbine in the business park). It would cast shadow across the highway (shadow = flicker and transmission hum). The Oleo Woods community would lose their buffer from I-95 (it's green buffer - trees to absorb sound, car emissions etc), the Storeybrooke/Frances communities would experience flicker every day from dawn until noon. Besides these directly affected areas, EVERY other Ward 5 neighborhood would have a visual of these wind turbines.

I will continue to oppose this ODNC while it is in committee (P&D), or in front of the Planning Board, or in front of the Conservation Commission, or in front of the FULL City Council. This is a bad idea for Ward 5.

I ask you to join me in expressing your opposition (title: oppose ODNC83) by sending emails to myself (I will forward) and/or to all city councillors.

Thank you

[Jim McCauley](#)

Newburyport City Councillor Ward 5

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Thank you

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