



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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November 2, 2016

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

RE: Evergreen Commons

Dear Mr. McCarthy;

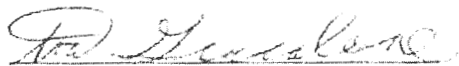
The Board of Health held a public meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 to discuss the Evergreen Common submission to the Planning Board. The purpose of this discussion was to determine if the development would impact the City of Newburyport well #2 water supply, and therefore poses a public health risk.

The Board of Health voted that it does not have sufficient information, based on a lack of baseline testing, to determine whether the Board is in favor of the project relative to the safety of the water supply. At a minimum a year-long baseline testing is needed with future testing to monitor contaminants to be determined by the Board of Health. The Board of Health agrees with the four conditions that were recommended by the Water Commission and specifically agrees that the wells should be monitored. Furthermore, the Board of Health requires having specific input into the plan that will outline the amount and types of testing to be performed and what chemicals are to be monitored.

At our meeting, Dr. Merabi informed the Board that he discussed this issue with several professors and specifically with Wendy Heiger-Bernays who is on the faculty of the Department of Environmental Health at the Boston University School of Public Health and also serves as a member of the Board of Health for Lexington, MA. The Board of Health has not been provided with sufficient information upon which to base a decision, namely baseline data of the VOCs from products that have been applied at the golf course. Since tests for these chemicals are not routinely done, no data is available. Studies have proven that golf courses pose a higher threat of contamination than residential areas, however, it has also been stated that this particular golf course may not have been maintained to the same degree as may be expected of a typical golf course. Dr. Merabi stated that the Board should establish definitive requirements for the type of tests, including the proxy and direct indicators necessary for monitoring the water supply from the well(s). The requirements should be so specific, including but not limited to the type and sensitivity of the spectrometer to be used in testing and the exact locations of monitoring wells where the testing is to be performed.

The Board of Health requests the Planning Board to strongly consider all of the future monitoring the Board of Health deems necessary for future monitoring including the cost and resources to sustain on-going water quality health surveillance.

Respectfully submitted for the Board of Health,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank P. Giacalone", written over a horizontal line.

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

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