

BREM 112

55 Suffolk Lane
Carlisle, MA 01741
November 14, 2014

11-17-2014

Zoning Board of Appeals - Town of Carlisle
Town Hall
66 Westford Street
Carlisle, MA 01741

Re: ZBA Hearing on Lifetime Green Homes, LLC Application for a Comprehensive Permit under MGL Chapter 40B

Dear Sirs;

We have recently learned of the protocol recommended by Steve Smith for testing the potential impact of water withdrawal and septic discharge associated with the project above. We are unable to attend the meeting scheduled for November 17, 2014, and are writing this letter to convey our opinion.

We were shocked to learn that Mr. Smith had proposed a minimal testing protocol less stringent than that recommended for Coventry Woods 3 years ago. During the recent hearing, abutters and other concerned Carlisle residents voiced their support for the most rigorous testing protocol available today, that recommended by Scott Horsley. As we understand it, this might be summarized by the protocol used for Coventry Woods augmented by Dye Testing. We were under the impression that Mr. Smith supported this position at the time, which is why we were so shocked.

We have to wonder if there have been communications, and/or meetings between Mr. Smith and Mr. Brem or his representatives that might have caused Mr. Smith to recommend a minimal testing protocol.

The safety "stakes" are high for us, with potential sickness or death of members of our families if any, some or all of our wells become polluted by the extreme burden of septic effluent that is concomitant with this project. We will only know when someone gets sick or dies. Additionally, we reject as cavalier the suggestion that a bond would cover the drilling of a new well, since many lots in the area have limited locations in which a new well could be drilled. We are not sanguine about reaching permanently good water when drilling a new well only a relatively few feet from one that is polluted. Would the bond cover another try or another after that?

If good water could not be found, the property value would sink to close to that of open land, probably ruining the families affected, many of whom are seniors and who would have no way to recover from this kind of financial disaster.

In summary, the task before the Board is difficult but if the situation were reversed and your property, health and financial well-being were as threatened as ours are now, we would want to make sure we did the most rigorous testing to insure, within the limits of the best technology available today, that we did everything to protect your interests, without taking shortcuts.

We urge the Board, in the strong manner possible, to reject the protocol recommended by Mr. Smith which only favors Mr. Brem and approve the protocol recommended by Scott Horsley including Dye testing. We recognize fully that this provides no guarantee but merely due diligence to protect the interests of the citizens of Carlisle.

Cordially yours,


Carolyn & Colin Higgins

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QUARREN HILL TOWN