

Jeffrey Ribeiro

From: Lisa Dillon on behalf of Front Desk
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 7:56 AM
To: Jonathon Idman
Subject: FW: "Sport Destination" Projects

From: pjonesoncape@comcast.net [<mailto:pjonesoncape@comcast.net>]

Sent: Saturday, May 02, 2015 8:41 PM

To: Front Desk

Subject: "Sport Destination" Projects

Dear Commission Staff;

Patricia Stebbens April 30 *My View* column in *The Cape Cod Times* "The Sports Complex that could eat Sandwich" expresses what many of us felt when we saw the drawing of that horrible sports complex. The developers are going to ruin the Cape for residents who love it and for tourists, with fewer and fewer choosing to return to its shores. Learning that one of the developers graduated from Chatham High School makes me more distrustful of some locals who see the Cape as a potential cash cow and don't understand the concept of stewardship of a national treasure.

As for jobs, most will be cleaning and restaurant jobs filled by H2-B lower-paid workers from other countries to keep developers' profits high. The young people and parents who come to use this "sports destination" (the new Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce term of art) will use the hotel there, not travel to Hyannis or Falmouth to patronize their local restaurants and hotels. There are better ways to encourage businesses that will offer higher paying and more varied longer-term jobs than this behemoth. This project, as Stebbins notes, is a giant monster and a nightmare -- worse than Lowes, and the Commission should not allow it.

I hope that historic preservation experts on your staff will also keep an eye on an \$800,000 project to reconstruct the ball field and enlarge and blacktop the parking lot in the historic center of West Barnstable. The Recreation Department is intent on getting another "team destination" ball field, which they may need, but this isn't the appropriate place and it could suburbanize and ruin a rural space that is central to the character of the village. Plans, for example, call for cutting a new 2-way driveway into the hillside between the Community Center and Selectman's Building, and this new high-end ballfield will mean much more traffic and parking of school buses, etc. The Town might be able to purchase the 8 acres next to the soccer field in Marstons Mills for such a field -- a much better spot. But since West Barnstable's center sits on Lombard land, the Rec Dept. probably figures they can get it for free. How such a project will benefit the poor, as the 17th Century Lombard will stipulates, is beyond me.

Spending the \$800,000 on the beginnings of really well done single affordable small houses behind the Village Store or on loans to build small businesses in that area would be more in line with Lombard's wishes. But that is not going to happen, so please have preservation and conservation experts on your staff really examine this project and champion the need to preserve one of the Cape's beautiful and historic village centers.

Two years ago, the architect of the Town of Barnstable produced a 68-space parking lot and baseball field plan for West Barnstable, which some of us posted in the Post Office and Bank, a plan that was subsequently sent back to the drawing boards due to community objections. SMRT, an architectural firm that has expertise in building baseball fields but not in designing village centers, was given \$100,000 to produce a new plan, which their director presented to a select group of Rec and Baseball officials and a few village residents last November.

(For more information on the various aspects of this project, see a column I wrote, entitled "The Heart of West Barnstable is at Stake," for *The Barnstable Patriot* on January 16, 2015. The latest plan, which I have not seen, will be presented at the next meeting of the West Barnstable Civic Association, which I believe is May 19. It would be great if an historic preservation expert on your staff could attend.)

I appreciate the opportunity to express my views to the Commission.

Priscilla Jones
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