



To the Cape Cod Commission,

We urge the members of the Commission take a long and careful look at the South Sandwich Village Sports & Convention Complex that is proposed for 56 acres of town land in Sandwich.

As 40+ year residents of Cape Cod we find this whole idea to be totally out of character for Cape Cod in general, and the town of Sandwich in particular. It appears a few officials in the town of Sandwich are bent on turning the town into a giant playground/amusement park in an attempt to relieve the tax burden on residential-rate taxpayers. Their plans are totally flawed. The Heritage Museum and Gardens zip-line adventure park was the first to slide under the radar, and an entertainment center at the Cape Cod Canal backed by this sports complex developer is in the planning stage.

The sheer magnitude of the sports complex – a seven story hotel, massive buildings, sprawling parking lots, and playing fields is beyond anything ever proposed for this town and Cape Cod, for that matter. The artist’s rendering looks like something better suited for a big city like Boston or Providence. There is nothing remotely “Cape Cod” about the design of the buildings or the project in general. To make matters worse, all roads leading to this site are single lane and already congested, and most pass through residential neighborhoods. The impact on the area and quality of life in Sandwich would be devastating. The next logical addition to the area around the complex would be fast food chains and trinket shops.

This proposal is fueled and funded by big money off-Cape investors looking for cheap land, (which they found, unfortunately) and dangling a few pieces of promised silver (guesstimated tax revenue) before the town Board of Selectmen has clearly blinded them. One of the current selectmen publicly stated there is no way of knowing what the complex would generate in tax revenue, even though he is pressing hard for approval. Any tax relief would certainly be offset by a diminished quality of life for residents.

Every year we hear Cape Cod business owners lamenting the lack of available workers for low wage seasonal jobs. This complex would only exacerbate the problem, and be of little benefit to our local work force. It’s no wonder our young people move away after graduating from school – are service and low-wage jobs the best we can offer to keep them here? Coincidentally, the local Chamber Of Commerce director wrote recently that small businesses in town are always hurting for lack of workers.

This proposal should be soundly rejected for a variety of reasons, and efforts should made to create something worthwhile on that site that would be much less intrusive and benefit the townspeople without bringing the big city look and atmosphere to the oldest town on Cape Cod.

Sandwich can do better than fall prey to this misuse of land by greedy developers. Sandwich residents have sought tax relief for decades, but selling the soul of our town is not the way to achieve it.

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