

27 May, 2015

To the Cape Cod Commission,

Regarding the proposed Sandwich Sports Complex and Convention Center I would like to voice my opinion which is firmly set AGAINST this project. There is No proof that it will bring in the \$1.8M revenue yearly (exclusive of any meals taxes and rooms taxes it may or may not generate). Also, the traffic will be unmanageable. This past Monday at Noon I had to pick up a prescription for my husband at the Quaker Meetinghouse CVS and it took me 25 minutes to drive less than 3.5 miles. This was a holiday weekend but there is always a lot of traffic during the summer months on the Cape. All I could think about was how horrible it will be when this gargantuan monstrosity, which DOES NOT belong anywhere on the Cape let alone Sandwich, will create even more traffic.

I have written several letters to the papers regarding this project and have attended meetings about it both with the Sandwich Chamber of Commerce and Sandwich Board of Selectmen (BOS). However, even after working with our Assessor, Ed Child, to show that the most we could hope to gain on tax relief is around \$150 to \$175 per year per average Sandwich taxpayer, the Sandwich BOS, still voted to proceed with a project that:

- 1) Does not provide any real tax relief to Sandwich taxpayers
- 2) Will increase traffic tremendously to an area already prone to high traffic and accidents
- 3) Will further burden our already over-burdened and aging bridges
- 4) Will put greater burden on our sole-source-aquifer and wastewater capabilities
- 5) Will increase the noise and lighting for abutters
- 6) Will overburden our fire and police which will have to respond to excessive traffic jams and emergencies because of large crowds
- 7) Will alter FOREVER the character of Sandwich as a beautiful, quaint and historic town
- 8) Will not be for use by Sandwich residents. This project is for wealthy people coming off-Cape whose children compete in specialized tournaments, and we have a very, small minority of children in this town who are involved in such tournaments
- 9) Is not in keeping with the demographics of the town (statistics show that by 2020, 40% of the population of Sandwich will be over the age of 60)
- 10) Will affect the character of Cape Cod as a whole since Mr. Clark has made it clear he wants his complex to be known as the "premier destination sports complex in North America"

It has been reported that Mr. Clark "hatched" his idea and "dream" while visiting Cooperstown Dream Park in upstate New York. He has also said that he has "looked at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex in Walt Disney World as an example of what he wants to achieve on the Upper Cape". His vision is to bring this grossly out-of-proportion project to Sandwich because of its proximity to our bridges and the canal. Can you imagine the traffic trying to get past this huge bottleneck in Sandwich to get further down Cape during tournaments?

I ask that you, the Cape Cod Commission, continue to be the stewards of our beautiful, pristine and unique island. I ask that you ponder this project very carefully as you have past projects. Please remember that 56 acres of land was allowed to be sold for only \$750,000 to some very high rollers, which in itself is a travesty. In closing, please remember that Sandwich is home not just to me but to 22,000 other people who are here with the expectation of living in a beautiful, quiet and serene place. This may also be home to some of you as well. Sandwich is the gateway to other beautiful, and serene towns further down the Cape and as such, this is a place that we call home. We choose to live here because we do NOT want to live in the city. Please vote "NO" to bringing a large city-type complex to the gateway to Cape Cod.

Yours truly,



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