

Dear Todd,

I attended the November meeting and listened with interest to the results of the West Cornwall Wastewater Management Study Report. First I would like to recognize the time and effort put into this study by the group members. I understand wastewater disposal is a problem in West Cornwall. I am aware this has impacted commercial growth in the area. Further I am concerned with the environmental impact of the community upon the Housatonic River. So I accept the need going forward for a plan to address the issue. But I strongly object to the recommendation of locating the proposed system in the Lower River Road area adjacent to that part of the river known as "The Bend".

The proximity of the proposed system to the river is of great concern. Although it was said that the water entering the river after treatment would be "cleaner than what is in the river now", the potential of flooding in the area and of storm water run off from the elevated land across the street that we who live in the area have been experiencing in the last few years could interfere with the proper functioning of system placed in that area. In addition I understand there is a issue of soil contamination from prior industrial use of the property. It would seem that locating a treatment facility in that area would create the distinct possibility of having a damaging impact upon the river.

What the Study Report neglects to acknowledge is that the location of the proposed treatment facility is directly across the street from 5 residences (mine included), directly across the river from another and in close proximity to and viewing distance of additional homes in the area. The placement of such a facility at this location would most definitely have a negative impact on the quality of life for the residents of this neighborhood. I have no doubt that any structures built can be made to be aesthetically pleasing, but at the end of the day we will be left sitting in our living rooms or on our porches or decks looking at the town sewer system. Our property values will definitely be decreased as a result, as would their future marketability. Then there are the issues of smell, noise, and the effect on air quality in the area which will exist. It is totally unfair and unacceptable for the Town to lay such a burden on the residents of this area.

Just as the benefits of a treatment facility to the current and potential future members of the West Cornwall business community have been detailed, so too should the effects of such a project upon the residential community be examined. I along with several residents of the area are very concerned and upset that the current proposal fails to do that. While I am not against the idea of some limited commercial growth, West Cornwall is also very much a residential community, and many of us choose to live here for the bucolic beauty of the area, not for convenience or shopping experiences.

I implore you to revisit the issue and take into consideration the very negative impact this proposal would have on the lives of the people in the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Betsy Preston

50 Lower River Road
West Cornwall CT

Comments on the proposed "Sewage Treatment Facility" for West Cornwall by Lynn Fowler
12/5/17

The Problem: Failing, failed or non-compliant septic systems in the center of West Cornwall and around Mill Brook and the Covered Bridge.

Questions: How many homes/businesses have failing septic systems? Who are the owners of the properties and what have they done to fix their problems? How can Cornwall help? Although the property owners should be ultimately responsible for the costs it is in the common best interest for Cornwall to help fix this problem.

Solutions: A town "wastewater (sewage) treatment facility" or any number of traditional septic system solutions. Some proposals have been made and revised. Vested interests and sales people have jumped on board. However, The Torrington Area Health District representation is absent and The CTDEEP can't comment yet.

I have comments, as a longtime resident of West Cornwall and river advocate. My greatest concern is of degradation of the scenic area south of the Covered Bridge and threats to the Housatonic River.

Any advocate for the Housatonic River would push for an upland facility, as far from the river and the flood plain as possible. If the soils on Upper River Road at two other possible locations for this facility were deemed unsuitable for a traditional septic, the soil by the Shaker Furniture Factory on Lower River Road is even more unsuitable.

This area now known as "The Bend" was actually known as the Garbage Hole and named that on fishermen's maps. It was an industrial site with a scissors factory and a foundry. Two giant gasoline/diesel tanks stood where the furniture factory is today and were used for fuels for trucks, and large equipment back in the time when lead and other bad additives (ex.MBTA) were added to the fuel.

This soil is contaminated enough that the Housatonic Valley Association and the landowner (Eversource) haven't been able to reach an agreement for over nine years as to who will be responsible for the property after the construction of a parking lot and improved river access at The Bend. Cornwall is talking to Eversource and to HVA and no one seems able to propel a simple river access project forward. Now the Septic Study Group wants to add a treatment facility to the property. NO!

The proposed system is noisy, even noisier if the backup generator has to work during power outages. It is smelly and unsightly, in this location it would greatly affect the neighborhood and shift the problems of a few downtown property owners onto their Lower River Road and Railroad Street neighbors. A sewage treatment facility on Lower River Road will negatively affect the value of my property, and will negatively impact daily living at my property and my neighborhood.

This plan has to move further away from the river. Trinity Conference center perhaps?

To the Board of Selectmen and the West Cornwall Water Septic Study Group

We the undersigned, residents and property owners of West Cornwall, object to the septic plans for West Cornwall. The proposal fails to establish the need for a sewer system and the necessity of sewer hookups. The proposal fails to account for the high cost and financing of the sewer system. The proposal fails to account for the construction of a sewage treatment plant in a prime, scenic open space in a flood zone. The proposal is framed on exaggerated and unrealistic claims of economic benefit.

Pamela P Wilson

Signed

Pamela Wilson

Name

12/6/17

Date

Mark Wilson

Signed

Mark Wilson

Name

12/5/17

Date

Verne Henshall

Signed

VERNE HENSHALL

Name

12/5/17

Date

R.A. Parker

Signed

R.A. PARKER

Name

Date

Judith Mellecker

Signed

JUDITH MELLECKER

Name

12.5.17

Date

Neils Forenbad

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Neils Forenbad

Name

12-5-17

Date

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Wayne J. Rudean Wayne J. Rudean 12.05.017
Signed Name Date

Duncan Hannah DUNCAN HANNAH 12.9.2017
Signed Name Date

Stephen J. Hart STEPHEN J. HART 12/9/17.
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Barbara Barrett

Signed

BARBARA BARRETT

Name

12/4/2017

Date

Christopher Barrett

Signed

CHRISTOPHER BARRETT

Name

12/4/2017

Date

Peter Barrett

Signed

Peter Barrett

Name

12/4/2017

Date

Michael Watts

Signed

MIKE WATTS

Name

12/4/2017

Date

Tim Locke need more information

Signed

Tim Locke

Name

12/4/2017

Date

Anthony D. Locke

Signed

ANTHONY D. LOCKE

Name

12/4/2017

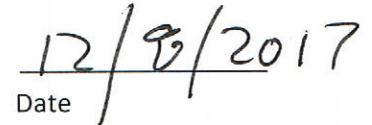
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Lynn Fowler
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Lynn Fowler
Name

12/10/17
Date

Jamie Fowler
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Jamie Fowler
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Clea Fowler
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Peter Bishop
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Peter Bishop
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