

Rochester, Jacqueline

To: Boucher, Toni
Subject: RE: Letter re: expansion of Wilton's sewage-delivery agreement with Norwalk

-----Original Message-----

From: dahuds@optonline.net <dahuds@optonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 3:33 PM
To: Boucher, Toni <Toni.Boucher@WILTONCT.ORG>
Subject: Letter re: expansion of Wilton's sewage-delivery agreement with Norwalk

C A R E F U L - From outside - CHECK before you CLICK.

Hi Toni,

I believe that you are the Chair of the Water Pollution Control Authority (on top of all of your other responsibilities!) or at least are the person to pass the below on to the Chair if you are not. The below is a letter intended for the Board's consideration since while I will be on the Zoom this evening, I don't think I'll be able to stay at the meeting beyond 6:15 because of choir rehearsal for our Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 this evening. (Our choir director is understandably quite serious about that rehearsing, and I'm the one among our choir members who needs the most practice!) I know that you are making major efforts to find out if existing capacity can be expanded de facto by finding ways of reducing run-off and/or measuring the amount of that run-off more accurately, but I sense that without arrangements for additional capacity that will not be enough to meet future needs for very long.

While I'm writing, I also want to take this opportunity to thank you again for your beautiful and uplifting remarks at the program on Feb. 4th. They made for the right and necessary closing about Wilton for the entire program.

With deep appreciation for all you do for us and warm regards,

Steve

Dear Members of the Wilton Pollution Control Authority,

I'm planning to attend your meeting scheduled for this evening but have to leave for another engagement before the public comment period is likely to begin. In light of that fact, I thought it best to put my thoughts in letter form on the subject of expansion of the limits set by Wilton's current agreement with the Town of Norwalk for delivery of sewage to Norwalk's waste-treatment facilities.

In my view, it is very important for Wilton to seek to allow for significantly more sewage to be permitted to be delivered by Wilton to Norwalk under the terms of that agreement. This is highly important for a variety of reasons including especially that future development in Wilton of, among other things, congregate housing will likely be severely impacted if those capacity limits cannot be increased.

Wilton's 2019 POCD limits to specific areas within Wilton Center and along Route 7 the locations where congregate housing can be placed, which is very good. However, sewage-capacity limits add an additional and unwelcome constraint. I say unwelcome because the benefits to Wilton from new congregate housing development are very pronounced:

First, congregate housing development will allow for greater population density in central areas of our town (while not impacting already existing beautiful bucolic areas that abound around our town). That resulting increased population density allows local businesses to prosper and also encourages the development of new businesses through the creation of a much more lively downtown Wilton area. As underscored at the Wilton Board of Finance meeting last night, Wilton very much needs new commercial development, and an increased population base in a more vibrant central area of Wilton will provide the foundation for that kind of additional commercial development, particularly that aimed at serving retail customers.

Second, under the provisions of section 8-30g of our state statutes, it is very likely that new housing development will include an affordable housing component within it. That feature means the opportunity for increased diversity within our town and also offers the opportunity for persons who work in Wilton but otherwise cannot afford to live here to have housing that will meet their needs at price levels they can afford. Those young people who come to live here in that way are likely future home buyers here as their careers advance -- a further benefit for all of us.

For all of these reasons, I strongly encourage the Board to proceed with negotiating with the Town of Norwalk for significantly increased capacity for sewage delivery by Wilton to Norwalk.

Sincerely,

Steve Hudspeth
6 Glen Hill Rd., Wilton