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103 Middlebrook Farm Road
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February 14, 2024

RE: Agenda Item 3

Dear WPCA Members,

I am writing you to provide comment on the proposed Appendix V to the Wilton WPCA Regulations to be considered under Item 3 of this evening's agenda.

I have read Scott Lawrence's letter to you all, so I will not repeat the almost eight-year history of the significant work of elected and appointed officials and other residents that has led us to this point.

I support # 2 of the proposed Appendix V. This change is consistent with the advice of professionals received in advance of the resolution adopted by the WPCA on January 19, 2023 when denying and application for sewer extension, allocation of capacity and approval to connect.

I support # 3 of the proposed Appendix V. Throughout calendar year 2023, the WPCA has worked to increase capacity available for allocation. Although it isn't clear if this could be applied retroactively to the two approvals that are past five years or approaching five years, WPCA discussions have certainly documented the negative impact of leaving those approvals open indefinitely.

I do not support #1 of the proposed Appendix V. It appears to be an attempt to benefit one Wilton property owner, ASML. Although Wilton residents, including me, are highly grateful to have a growing ASML in Wilton, a regulation/policy that is intended for just one property owner is not good governance. Also the idea that it is the role of the WPCA to determine which companies engaging in manufacturing and research related to scientific equipment are critical to the well-being of the town, the state and the country feels like overreach for a WPCA.

I do not support #5 of the proposed Appendix V. Wilton experienced years of relatively stagnant growth leading up to the adoption of the POCD. Wilton's annual average daily flow generally hovered around 80%. The POCD consultant concluded there was sufficient capacity for the time being. New projects were expected, but at a much slower pace than we are experiencing. No one imagined the dramatic changes that would begin just months after its adoption.

In 2023, the WPCA membership recognized current demand meant a need to approach Norwalk sooner than expected in order to increase the maximum allowable annual average daily flow in the agreement. The membership undertook the necessary first step, the I&I Study. And subsequently approved immediate full funding of the study's recommendations rather than over

3 years as originally suggested. The membership took additional steps including consideration of a change in how to measure the estimated flow of applications.

There was recognition that the CT DPH standard being used, which had been developed for single family homes, was likely overly conservative and not reflective of the average daily flow for multi-family housing. Below is CT DPH's explanation of their development of the 150 gpd standard, as published on the CT DPH website.

During those discussions, DPW Director/Town Engineer Frank Smeriglio repeatedly expressed the difficulty of obtaining actual data as Wilton property owners are customers of Norwalk and we have no access. Prompted by those continued discussions and in advance of the November 2023 WPCA meeting, Craig Flaherty P.E. of Redness & Mead conducted his own Water Use Study and produced a six-page report which was provided to the membership which showed far lower actual use than the WPCA standard.

https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif10026/f/agendas/wilton_water_use_study_2023-11-03.pdf. At the November meeting, the membership requested the study be provided to the Town's consultants for comment for discussion at the next meeting. If not aware, Craig Flaherty is a widely known and highly regarded professional within this field.

The next meeting was cancelled, but Craig Flaherty attended your January meeting and discussed the study results. The study provided the data the membership had been seeking, but the recommendations in #5, seem to disregard that data. They only marginally change the current standard, meaning the proposed standards are also likely overly conservative and not reflective of the average daily flow for multi-family housing. I would argue that you can now remove the "likely" from that sentence because you have been provided with actual data for multi-family housing in the area.

I urge you to not adopt these standards and instead continue to work towards standards that are more reflective of actual and will accomplish the initial goal of creating more available capacity for potential allocation.

I also urge you, if allowed under the special meeting rules, to take a vote tonight to proceed with a formal request to Norwalk to increase the annual average daily flow cap. If you can't vote tonight, I encourage you to hold a special meeting this month, rather than waiting another month. When making a request, I encourage you to think of increasing the cap in increments and only request what you see as the need over the shorter-term, rather than first trying to determine what might be needed for the long-term.

As you all know, a decision not to seek an increase in the cap, would 1-be contrary to the Town's POCD, 2-make the Planning and Zoning Commission's recent work on the Wilton Center Master Plan and the taxpayers' investment in that work a waste and 3-return Wilton to the stagnancy we experienced for years. This is because there is not sufficient available capacity under the cap and the current standard for any further multi-family allocations.

The fact that the WPCA had been seen to be actively working towards greater capacity meant developers continued to invest the monies required to advance their proposed projects. With a

change in course by the WPCA, one can certainly expect a change in course by those with proposals before the Land Use boards and those perhaps considering future investment in Wilton.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynne A Vanderslice

CC Frank Smeriglio
Jackie Rochester

Language from the CT DPH website.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

The size of the septic tank and leaching system serving a residential building is related to the number of bedrooms, without consideration of the number of occupants or the water consumption. The requirements in the Technical Standards may appear to be extremely conservative, considering that the size of the average family has been decreasing and now consists of less than three persons, and considering that studies have shown per capita water consumption to average approximately 50 gallons per day. On the other hand, it must be realized that sewage disposal requirements cannot be based on average figures, since if this were done, one-half of all the systems would be substandard and in danger of failing. A factor of safety of 1.5 is required to bring the confidence level to over 90 percent, for the reasons previously described. Therefore, in water usage terms, the design flow for each bedroom has been set at 150 gallons per day. This is based on two occupants. each averaging 50 gallons per day, with a 1.5 safety factor applied. The 150 GPD per bedroom usage factor would be utilized whenever performing hydraulic analysis calculations for residential buildings.

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/Environmental-Engineering/Determining-Design-Sewage-Flow>