**From:** James Kane <jkane@Admakepeace.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:32:41 AM
**To:** Derek Sullivan; Kenneth Buckland
**Cc:** Linda Burke; Kim Houdlette
**Subject:** A.D. Makepeace Company

Derek and Ken,

Recently, there has been sea of misinformation spread across our town at various meetings, on social media, and in various news outlets regarding the A.D. Makepeace Company, its adherence to regulatory standards, and impacts on habitats regulated by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. At issue is a solar project slated for 140 Tihonet Road that meets all of the town’s bylaws and is located outside of any Pine Barren or other regulated habitat.  In your position, it is critical that the truth cut through this fog of disinformation

For over a decade, the A. D. Makepeace Company has pursued active farming on its land long held in Wareham and adjacent towns.  We have established strong working relationships with local and state land use regulators. These relationships are built on living up to our promises and contributing the success of communities in which we farm.  We complete our projects in accordance with our permits.  Prior initiating a project, each site is reviewed and approved by Mass Historic to ensure there is no threat to Native American history or culture.  Such efforts have been monitored by representatives of appropriate tribes.  This on-the-ground analysis is done by an independent and fully credentialled consultant approved by Mass Historic, not the company.  If a site is within mapped habitat, it is fully mitigated for any impacts in accordance with regulation of Natural Heritage and Endangered Specifies staff and in accordance with any permit issued by that regulatory agency, not the company. Few properties in Massachusetts are subject to such intense regulatory scrutiny.

Through this process, we have preserved MORE land permanently that required by our permits.

To date, these cooperative efforts have resulted in the permanent protection of over 1,800 acres.  More importantly, the areas preserved are located adjacent to Myles Standish State Forest, as that land is actually mapped habitat and provides significant protections to wildlife.  Again, that is in line with actual state policy and the desires of state regulators and done in cooperation with them through issued permits.

Allegations have been made about “illegal gravel removal” and these also are false.  As a farmer, we can move materials from company land to company land as allowed by town bylaw.  Over the past decade, our company has reinvested in our farming operations with annual winter sanding efforts, the renovation of many cranberry bogs, and planting of new bogs.  A simple drive around public roadways will allow one to see piles of sand ready for use on adjacent bog or newly planted bog – renovated or newly created upland bog.

We have deliberately chosen not to do battle in the trenches of social media, because clearly, these individuals have no interest in learning the facts.

In closing, I would like to make three points directly related to Wareham:

First, the land in question, not within any habitat, could be clear-cut tomorrow for agricultural or residential housing development. Renewable energy projects such as solar generate large and constant streams of revenues with no related costs to the town.  The track record is clear in Wareham and other towns as well.  Residential development brings traffic, the need for municipal services, public roadway maintenance and demands on emergency medical services, fire and rescue and police services.

Second, on the matter of land preservation, all the land at the end of Maple Springs Road north to the state forest is permanently protected as the result of our cooperative relationship with Mass Wildlife and the Wareham Water District.  Also, all of Century Bog, the headwater of the much-loved Red Brook, is permanently protected as the result of this same relationship with Mass Wildlife.  Additional lands along Agawam Road north to the Plymouth town line and adjacent to land held by the Wareham Land Trust is permanently protected.  Lands on the east and west sides of the State Forest are also protected.  The land preserved forever is actual habitat.  The site of the solar project is not.

Finally, if the Board of Selectmen chooses to acquire the property in question, it's important to keep in mind that the state has determined there is very little environmental value to the site, regardless of what others may claim. Further, the public would not be able to access the property for recreational purposes. And, at least in my opinion, it would be economically irresponsible to forego (i) rollback taxes, (ii) future real property taxes, and (iii) future personal property taxes via the PILOTs.

In the event you require additional information, you can reach me at 508-728-0476, or by email.

Be well, J