

From: Mary Hourihan <hourihan1@rcn.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:35 PM

To: Kenneth Buckland

Subject: Deny the Site Plan Approvals and Special Permit Extensions for Borrego in Wareham

Wareham Director of Planning and Community Development Kenneth Buckland,
I urge the Wareham Planning Board to deny the Site Plan Approval and Special Permit extension requests for 27 Charge Pond Road and 150 Tihonet Road. These sites are part of a 200-acre swath of destruction and desecration proposed by the solar industry and the sand and gravel mining industry. Denying the extensions will give the Town and its residents the time they need to study future solar plans in light of rapid developments in the renewable energy landscape and the urgent need to protect our forests.

The reasons to deny these projects are based on the ecological significance of the sites, including vernal pools, wetlands, pine barrens forests, the Wankinko River, potential archaeological significance, and threats to the sole-source aquifer.

This entire area was deemed archaeologically significant in 2009 when the TMUD area was established. The solar industry is dividing and destroying land that was once home to Indigenous people. Please stop the desecration of Indigenous history, stop the destruction of our forests.

Please deny the extensions based on these factors:

1. WETLAND RESOURCES on both 27 Charge Pond Road and 150 Tihonet Road will be impacted.
2. There are VERNAL POOLS on 27 Charge Pond Road that need to be certified.
3. The forested sites are situated on the WANKINKO RIVER, a HERRING RUN.
4. 150 Tihonet Road is ARCHAEOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE, according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.
5. Another close-by property developed into solar, 160 Tihonet Road, is the subject of a Notice of Intent to Sue Letter to the Town of Wareham by ten residents, because of illegal mining that took place at that site prior to the solar installation.
6. These sites represent SOLAR GONE WRONG.
7. THE STATE IS RECONSIDERING SOLAR SITING - there is no rush to approve.
8. Governor Healy is recognizing the need for forest cover in the fight against climate change.
9. Save the Pine Barrens and Save Mass Forests have filed a Bill to Empower Municipal Zoning for Solar Siting, which puts more power into the hands of local boards to regulate where solar goes in their towns.
10. The project site for 150 Tihonet Road is mapped within the Priority Habitat zone for the NORTHERN LONG EARED BAT, recently added to the Endangered Species List.

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