

Majestic Parcel Offers Residents Something More Valuable than Horse Racing

To the Planning Board:

Hello, my name is Katherine Harrelson, and I grew up on Hunter Avenue. I'm opposed to the casino project because I think it will ruin the otherwise pristine, quiet, and safe little corner of East Wareham that so many of us hold dear in our hearts, and because developing this high quality parcel of land would go against Massachusetts' own plan to combat climate change.

Save for approximately 32 acres used as a sand mine, the parcel is undeveloped, and consists of approximately 243 acres of native Coastal Pine Barrens, a globally rare ecosystem. The parcel sits on top of the EPA-designated sole-source Plymouth/Carver aquifer, which, according to the EPA, is the principal drinking water source for the entire region. According to the Massachusetts DEP, the parcel also sits on top of an approved wellhead protection area, meaning the land on which the parcel sits has been determined to provide water to local public supply wells. The forest and sand that sit atop the parcel now help recharge the aquifer with drinking water and filter rainwater, helping maintain the quality of water for the region.

The 2018 Massachusetts *Integrated State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan*, calls for *strategies that conserve and sustainably employ the natural resources of the Commonwealth to enhance climate adaptation, build resilience and mitigate climate change*. I call on Wareham to preserve this parcel in perpetuity, to save our forests, save our ecosystems, protect our drinking water, and preserve our quality of life.