

Vote “No” on Article 1 Wareham Special Town Meeting

**Saturday, April 10 @ 12 noon
Wareham High School Athletic Field**

Protect Wareham’s Quality of Life for Future Generations

Dear Trustees supporter:

The Trustees of Reservations opposes the proposal by a developer to amend Wareham’s Zoning Bylaw to re-zone 756 acres from residential zoning to a new “Hospitality, Recreational and Entertainment Overlay District.”

The proposed re-zoning would lead to dense commercial development which would threaten the state Red Brook Wildlife Management Area and The Trustees’ Lyman Reserve property. The reserve sits at the mouth of the brook, a 4.5-mile spring-fed, cold-water stream that flows from White Island Pond to Buttermilk Bay – a critical estuary and shellfish production area. Red Brook is one of the few coastal streams in Massachusetts that supports anadromous fish (which make their way to the sea to grow and return as adults to spawn) and is home to one of the last remaining native sea-run Brook Trout fisheries in the Eastern US. Lyman offers recreational opportunities for public use including a scenic stretch of coastal shoreline with views of Buttermilk Bay. The historic and live herring runs in Red Brook contribute to the region’s recreational fishing economy as they are a primary food source for stripe bass and other coastal fish. This fishery is so unique and important that the state designated Red Brook as catch and release only.

The lands proposed for this zoning change represent some the last undeveloped Pine Barrens habitat in the region. These barrens have global significance due to their size and concentration of rare species and species of concern - the area is designated as Priority Habitat, Core Habitat or Critical Natural Landscape by the state. Proposed zoning changes and related commercial developments will threaten the habitat and integrity of the barrens, especially the corridor between the greater Myles Standish State Forest and the Upper Cape.

The proposed zoning change threatens the water quality and quantity that supports these ecosystems, especially during warmer months when ground water maintains the water flow and lower temperatures are needed for the fisheries’ survival. Allowing dense development would negatively impact groundwater resources through nutrient enrichment from runoff and wastewater disposal. In addition to concerns about nitrogen, groundwater could be negatively impacted by dissolved oxygen depletion, other dissolved nutrients and chemical constituents and emerging contaminants of concern. Climate impacts including warmer temperatures and drought, already threaten the pine barrens - future development could exacerbate problems for the community’s water supplies resulting from increased water withdrawals, wastewater, and stormwater runoff.

The impacts of a zoning change would be permanent and would likely result in an irreversible collapse

of the region's unique and sensitive ecosystems and detrimentally impacting the quality of life for the local community.

The Trustees opposes Wareham's proposed Hospitality, Recreation and Entertainment District and associated developments, and urges Wareham residents to participate in Wareham's Special Town Meeting on April 10, 2021.

**Please Vote "NO" on Article 1
April 10 @ 12 noon**