

Planning Board

Town of Fairhaven

Re.: Proposed 16-lot subdivision, Hiller Ave./Timothy Street

To The Board:

I have lived in Fairhaven for nearly 35 years. It is where we chose to raise our family, and we have seldom regretted that decision. We came for the intimacy and down-to-earth feel of the community, its beauty and proximity to the ocean. In short, its *environment*.

The way we care for our environment - its air, water, wildlife, plants, trees - brings meaning and quality to our lives. It also says who we are as its stewards.

This proposed subdivision threatens our environment in several ways.

Most importantly, it requires the removal of hundreds of mature trees. There is no way to overstate the damage that does. Trees provide the following for all of us:

- Their roots absorb water
- They provide oxygen
- They provide shade and buffer noise
- They are a wildlife habitat
- They add grace and beauty to our lives

Take these trees out, and there is no feat of engineering genius that will remediate their loss. The Little Bay Annex to the Bike Path running from the DPW already has a spot that floods nearly 10 months a year. Allow this project and we might as well issue kayaks to all who choose to travel it.

The combination of a clear-cut forest near a wetland and addition of 16 homesites is devastating. It adds stress to an already-challenged ecosystem by replacing deep roots with grass roots; replacing the sound of birds and hum of bees with the drone of lawnmowers, weed-whackers and leaf-blowers. And what poisons will landowners spray and pour onto their now-unwanted brush and weeds, that will seep into the wetlands?

And speaking of the human touch, we already, in this neighborhood, deal with speeding cars from the main streets (Hiller and Timothy), whose drivers seldom glance in either direction for approaching vehicles.

When we moved here, the developers assured us that no one would ever be able to build behind us because "it's all Conservation land."

We believed them. But developers lie, don't they.

For the reasons noted above and many more, I vehemently oppose this project and respectfully request the Board consider them in its deliberations.

Yours Truly,

Rachel Thomas

1 Teal Circle