

TO: Martin Connor, Land Use Officer

FROM: Scott Olson

SUBJECT: Application for 777 North Street, Goshen

DATE: February 28, 2024

I would like to thank you along with the Planning and Zoning Commission for such a well run meeting on Tuesday, February 27. It was great to see so many people come out and express their opinions in such a civil manner.

Despite having so many people come out and speak in favor of this application, I am unable to ignore the voices of those who oppose my project. Having my own indoor tennis/pickleball facility has been a dream of mine for over nine years but I cannot afford to have it come at the cost of broken friendships or strained relationships with neighbors and townspeople. For this reason, I am withdrawing my application.

This pickleball facility was never engineered to be a significant money-maker. My goal was to hopefully break even and be able to enjoy some athletic and social activity in an atmosphere of camaraderie. This would be difficult to enjoy if in doing so, my neighbors felt that it would seriously diminish their quality of life.

Although in further discussions, I have been urged to move forward with the project, I feel that it's not always about what one "can do," but what one "should do."

Please accept this withdrawal and know that there may come a day where I am back before the commission with a similar application in a location that will hopefully be more appealing.

Regards,

Scott Olson

Dear Friends on the Planning and Zoning Commission:

First, I would appreciate it if the Chair of this Commission would forward my letter and share it with each member of your Commission before your next meeting,

In this letter I am addressing the issue of the proposal to construct a public works building on Sharon Turnpike.

I am aware that the history of this Town purchased land, the acquisition of a STEAP grant and the creation of a Building Committee for a 14,000 sq ft building is complex. It appears that once the Fire Department declined participation in the initial plan, that the Public Works Department has now revised its building plans and has been sanctioned to present a proposal to Planning and Zoning (P & Z). It has been stated by Selectman Olson that this process is for the purpose of keeping the STEAP grant active.

Regrettably the entire process has had its ups and downs. The apparent decision of the BOS was to put the process on "pause" at the end of November, and to encourage Public Works to both present a needs assessment, as well as a survey of possible alternate sites and implement more public meetings. At the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting on 2/27/24 Mr. Harlow presented a new floor plan for a building on the Sharon Turnpike land, but without adhering to the request of the BOS last year to determine if the building is actually needed. In addition it is unclear how the STEAP grant will sync with the taxpayer burden of actually building this facility, i.e. how much more will this facility cost now and in the future. And I am curious as to how the various site plans have been financed both in the past and for the future. As I listen to our First Selectman it appears that the plan is to move forward with an apparent nod toward "let's get this done" ..P & Z, Board of Finance etc. The exact timeline for this speed is unclear to obtain the monies, which I thought were applicable to other sites rather than 190 Sharon Turnpike.

Finally, when one looks at the STEAP grant it appears that it was filled out with all sorts of boxes checked off without looking carefully at the environmental impact. (Note the impact on the wetlands and animal species has been done by a community group of experts, but never considered by a town official). However, the public concern apparently led to the "pause" in the past. It seems clear that this Commission should show due diligence in looking at all aspects of the project related to site location, tax payer cost and timeline. Finally, given the size of this potential project and its implications for the town in terms of taxes and the environment, there should be a public hearing. Thank you.

Sincerely, Janet Hooper

March 20, 2024

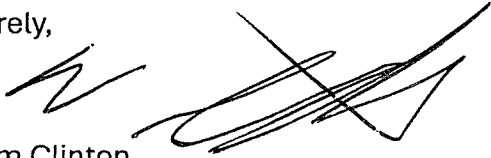
To: 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Todd Carusillo

From: William Clinton

Dear Mr. Carusillo,

I am writing to formally resign as alternate from the Planning & Zoning Board for the Town of Goshen. This will be effective April 20, 2024, unless you find a replacement prior. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Clinton', written over a horizontal line.

William Clinton

Received March 21, 2024 @ 9:46 A.M.

Attest Deborah Z. Blue  
Goshen Town Clerk