

September 17, 2024

Dennis Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals

For the Record. Please read aloud at the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting September 23rd.

re: Eagle Pond Homeless Shelter
1 Love Lane, Dennis access from Main Rd, Harwich
Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) – Ms. Magnotta
Approved by CCCommission under Dover Amendment

I am a Harwich resident voicing my concern because homeless people need to be cared for and that the Eagle Pond project is appropriate. HAC has a reputable and successful record in providing housing for the Cape Cod population of people in need. Why the opposition? We all need to care for others less fortunate.

The Harwich select board is upset that “they” were not included in all the discussions. It is *not* a Harwich issue. It is a Dennis not Harwich project. I am appalled that Mr. Handler advocates closing Main street at the Harwich border. That would be a terrible good-neighbor policy. I hope Dennis, Chatham, Brewster, Orleans will never ever so narrowly minded choose to follow suit and close all their roads to Harwich.

When Eagle Pond Nursing home was first proposed, built and operated were there objections? Was a traffic study done then? Was closing the road at the Harwich town line suggested back at that time? And today, what is the traffic with Dirtworks, multiple landscaping businesses, auto repair businesses, etc. on Main street? It is suggested that the homeless shelter would have less traffic than when the facility was operating as a nursing home.

The validity of a proposed homeless shelter exemption based on the Dover Amendment via the Cape Cod Commission, the governing body overseeing the welfare of Cape Cod, finds that the project does not need review.

The Harwich select board is eager to support the “housing crisis” on Cape Cod – multiple projects for affordable housing: Marceline and Pine Oaks. These projects are developments – taking land from Nature, continuing the loss of natural space. Natural Space, the reason we all live in Harwich. Eagle Pond is a re-use of existing developed space serving human needs without the loss of Nature.

Please act to ensure the success of the Eagle Pond Project. We all need to be sensitive o the needs of less fortunate people and families.

Thank you,
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