

Johnson, Holly (EEA)

From: Jane Sciacca [jane_sciacca@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 12:47 PM
To: Johnson, Holly (EEA)
Subject: Comments on the Wayland Town Center Project FEIR, MEPA # 13844.

March 20, 2008

Secretary Ian A. Bowles
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
ATTN: MEPA Office
Holly Johnson, EOEPA # 13844
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Bowles:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wayland Town Center Project FEIR, MEPA # 13844.

The Wayland Historical Society is a private non-profit organization which owns and operates the Grout-Heard House, the oldest building in the Wayland Historic District. The Grout-Heard House serves as the historical museum for the Town of Wayland and is the venue for frequent programs for adults and schoolchildren. It is the repository for nearly 400 years of Wayland historical artifacts. The Society works closely with the town boards concerned with historic preservation, the Wayland Historic District Commission and the Wayland Historical Commission.

The Board of Managers of the Historical Society is concerned that several elements of the recently proposed traffic mitigation plans for the Town Center Project will have severe negative impacts on the Grout-Heard House and Wayland's historic town center (as distinct from the Town Center Project, which is the real estate development). Of most concern are the new traffic lights proposed for the intersection of routes 126 and 27, directly in front of the Grout-Heard House. With multiple poles and multiple lights, this new structure will severely detract from the historic ambience of the House and the area. It will also, as we understand it, lead to additional road widening, cutting into the green space in front of the House and the historic charm that green space adds. We also fear that the presence of this light will lead to gridlock whenever someone travelling from the north attempts to make the left into the Grout-Heard House driveway.

For all these reasons we recommend, in the strongest possible terms, that any traffic light be located at the access driveway to the development rather than compromise over 300 years of Wayland history.

We also object to plans to further shrink the Mellen Law Office Green along route 20, which has been the Town Green for nearly 300 years. Road work over the years has chopped the Green roughly in half. It was already a century old and extended to Mill Brook on the south before the first version of what is now Route 20 was built. Every additional inch taken from the Green destroys not just Wayland's history but our national heritage as well, as it was the mustering point for the Sudbury Militia before they marched to Concord on April 19, 1775 to help give birth to our nation. We are amazed at the cavalier attitude of people who would never dream of desecrating an American flag toward taking another piece of the Green.

Very truly yours,
Jane Sciacca, President
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