



Jessica Montgomery <montgomeryj@togny.org>

Public Hearing on Proposed Building Moratorium

1 message

Mon, Mar 3, 2025 at 10:20 AM

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
To: Peter Barber <barberp@togny.org>, Amanda Beedle <beedlea@togny.org>, Jake Crawford <crawfordj@togny.org>, Christine Napierski <napierskic@togny.org>, Gustavo Santos <santosg@togny.org>, Jessica Montgomery <montgomeryj@togny.org>

Dear Supervisor Barber and Town Board Members,

I am writing to register my support for enacting the local law that would institute a building moratorium on certain residential development.

At the time that the earlier moratorium was instated, concerns had been raised by the Superintendent of the Water Department regarding water capacity and water pressure issues. Since that time, new meters have been installed, town wide, to help in alerting where there could be water loss emergencies. It was said that during months of water usage spikes, such emergencies would put a lot of pressure on the water department.

It was also said at the time that the water department wanted to make sure that they had a good plan in place. They were looking into upgrading the plant as well as reviving some of the old water wells which had been decommissioned to try to bring water capacity issues in line.

New meters, while certainly a productive means for being able to respond to water loss emergencies, do not address water capacity and water pressure issues that are not a function of emergency water loss.

Later on, this evening, the board will be voting on a proposal to transition the water usage rate schedule from unit-based by structure to consumption-based billing, in order to provide residents with more control over their costs and encourage water conservation.

If the expectation of everyone cutting back on their water usage is the plan for ameliorating the stated water capacity/pressure concerns, it would seem advisable to have a period of time to monitor the impact, particularly during the high spike months. We do indeed need to be sure that there is a good plan in place. With the plethora of high-density development and commercial projects currently being proposed in town, we need to take caution before committing to additional sources of consumption.

Another key point in support of the earlier moratorium, was to ensure that new projects would be in compliance with the updated Comprehensive Plan that was concomitantly being drafted.

That draft plan has been completed by the consultants and the Committee and forwarded to this board for finalization. It has not been finalized. The Planning Board has yet to weigh in with their review and recommendations. You have yet to continue hearing from the public and make your own determinations regarding what has been submitted as a proposal. There are debatable issues with what has been authored, and it will be this board's purview to make changes to it in critical areas that have been left open ended in terms of potential changes in zoning.

Frankly, the assumption of rubber-stamped acceptance of this document is presumptuous. It behooves the board to enact a moratorium on residential development to ensure that what goes forward is consistent with our future vision and within the capability to be supported by our infrastructure.

I would respectfully request that this submission be entered as my commentary for the public hearing. Thank you.

Iris Broyde
Westmere Terrace.