

SALEM AND BEVERLY WATER SUPPLY BOARD

50 ARLINGTON AVENUE, BEVERLY, MA 01915-1035

Tel. (978) 922-2600 Fax (978) 921-4584

ALAN F. TAUBERT, JR., P.E.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



BRADLEY E. PERRON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

July 26, 2023

Mr. Robert J. Moriarty, Jr., Chairman
Topsfield Zoning Board of Appeals
8 West Common Street
Topsfield, MA 01983

Dear Mr. Moriarty,

On July 24, 2023, the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board (the Board) received notice regarding the appeal of the Building Inspector's decision by the Essex Agricultural Society, concerning the applicability of camping located at 207 Boston Street. From the Board's perspective, we are concerned with the precedent and potential health impacts of overturning the Inspector's decision to allow camping in an environmentally sensitive area without adequate controls necessary to protect the Board's water supply.

As an independent government entity and public water supplier which supplies drinking water to the distribution systems owned and operated by the cities of Salem and Beverly, including parts of Wenham, the proposed use of the area off of route 97 is adjacent to School Brook and the Ipswich River and is within a third of a mile from the Board's diversion station, which may impact the water supply of approximately 90,000 residents. Given the density of previously proposed campers, location of trash, recycling, portable toilets, and grey water disposal less than fifty feet from the waterfront jurisdiction, as attached, and the lack of properly permitted permanent facilities, even the release of 100 gallons of raw untreated sewage would impact the precautions and treatment that the Board would have to undertake to resolve any damages, if allowed.

Based on the information provided, the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board recommends that the Topsfield Zoning Board of Appeals not overturn the decision of the town's Building Inspector. We look forward to participating in the upcoming public hearing to elaborate on our concerns and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Bradley Perron, written in a cursive style.

Bradley Perron
Deputy Director

cc. Town Administrator's Office (via email)

