

Nov. 30 Sea Camps Planning Forum

Help protect our drinking water supply

The Select Board has supported housing on the Long Pond parcel and the consulting team has put forward options for housing on the northern 12 to 15 acres of the parcel, which are in our drinking water supply area.

Here are three reasons why you should be concerned.

Since the Punkhorn purchases in the 1980's, the community has consistently supported protecting our drinking water supply area from development.

- In the last 20 years, all 19 proposals for land protection in the drinking water supply areas have been approved by Town meeting
- Brewster has protected the drinking water supply areas better than any other Cape town, but still the areas are only 40 percent protected
- The Vision Plan and Local Comprehensive Plan speak to continuing to protect land in drinking water supply areas
- Contaminants such as PFAS (forever chemicals) are not treated by conventional sewage treatment

There is a housing crisis, but we don't have to choose between housing or conservation. It is a question of where the two should best be located.

- The Vision Plan, the Local Comprehensive Plan and the Housing Production Plan all speak to encouraging development in areas of public services, infrastructure, transport, and economic activities
- The Vision Plan and the Local Comprehensive Plan speak to focusing conservation in areas of environmentally sensitive resources, such as the drinking water supply

The densities proposed for housing are inappropriate for the Long Pond parcel.

- The middle density scenario for Long pond parcel proposes 44 housing units on 12 acres along Rt 137 or a density of 3.7 units per acre
- This is a significantly greater density than other recent affordable housing projects such as Paul Hush, Brewster Woods, the Millstone Rd project, and Brewster Landing, none of which are in the drinking water supply area
- Rt 137 from Millstone Road to the Harwich line, approximately 1.5 miles, is low density in character along the road, with only about 50 housing units compared to the 40+ units which would be put on the 12 acres in the proposal

The Brewster public has never been given the opportunity to vote for a conservation option for the Long Pond property so we urge you to participate in the virtual public forum (via Zoom) on November 30. You will also be able to submit your comments during the one-week comment period after. More information is on the Town website : www.brewster-ma.gov/cape-cod-sea-camps-properties

Voice your support for a full conservation option for the Pond parcel to protect Brewster's drinking water supply and water quality in Long Pond.

Attend the Public Forum
Thurs., Nov. 30, 6-8 pm on Zoom
(There is no in-person meeting option.)

Brewster Conservation Trust