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Stop This Environmental Disaster - Eileen S. Creedon

Feb 10, 2023

Stop This Environmental Disaster

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to an article written in the Boston Sunday Globe “The Great Trash War of Dalton, New Hampshire (and how you might be involved)”, January 22, 2023 and as a follow up to the Feb. 2nd Planning Board meeting in Dalton, New Hampshire discussing the abolishment of the Dalton Planning Board. I am involved and horrified at the prospect of the proposed landfill just a half-mile from Forest Lake and the adjoining State Park and within close proximity of Burns Pond, the Ammonoosuc River, the Connecticut River, wetlands and a fragile ecosystem. I am writing to say that although I appreciate Mr. Donahue’s effort, I believe the article really missed the boat. To emphasize the discord that is currently at issue in Dalton N. H. and the surrounding towns may be accurate but it is a disservice to the issue at hand. The division within the town takes the focus off the environmental nightmare the landfill represents. The article and referenced discord distracts the citizens of the North Country by making this an “us vs. them” issue, an issue of “not in my back yard”. The true issue is the environmental nightmare this landfill represents for the town of Dalton, the surrounding towns and all of the North Country.

The proposed landfill poses an environmental threat to the lake, the surrounding area and the way of life that currently exists in the area. The impact on the environment, if this proposed landfill comes to fruition, is enormous. I have read and listened carefully to the landfill proposal. It pretty much guarantees that Forest Lake and the surrounding lakes, rivers and parks will become polluted from toxic waste.

In addition to the clear and obvious environmental threat, the economic threats to the towns of Dalton, Whitefield, Bethlehem and Littleton are considerable. There will be a huge increase in the number of 18 and 22 wheeler trucks running through these towns, bringing trash from other states. the roads will be compromised, the cost of road repair considerable, the traffic will increase a most importantly the increase in truck traffic will present a danger on the roads to all of us. Tr

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be a significant devaluation of the tax base for the towns of Dalton, Whitefield and Littleton. Property values will greatly decrease and tourism will dry up if the lakes and parks are polluted and the odors from the landfill result in the area being undesirable.

The issue we should be talking about is how to stop this environmental disaster. To “feed the fire” of interpersonal discord is not productive and again, distracting. We stand to lose the North Country, as we know it. This landfill is unnecessary. There are other well-articulated and well-researched options for the trash in N. H. This matter is urgent; this is about the future of the towns of Dalton, Whitefield, Bethlehem, Littleton and the future of the North Country. Please lets stop the fighting and look at the real issues here. We need to all be attending to, writing articles about and voting for what is truly a crisis: the pending environmental tragedy to the North Country of N. H.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eileen S. Creedon

Dalton, N. H.