

July 13, 2020

Amanda, Mr. Chairman and members of the Planning Board,

This letter is in reference to the “Public Hearing” on elimination of the Senior Overlay, specifically on what is almost entirely Map 12-B or the original Inland Farm Property.

I’m not sure I understand why this area was singled out, especially when the entire area was, at one time, approved for Inland Farm East and Inland Farm West – totaling 120 units for Senior Housing – starting with independent living for those (farm loving active Seniors), with plans for some assisted units to still stay “home” as aging progressed. An area for ball fields and an area for a Community Center was to be given to the Town to allow interaction with kids and younger people. Maybe this is the very reason for your fear but that is no longer an option as it was –something I don’t regret.

The Senior facilities closer to North Windham and other resources are wonderful for those who love that living and there are many; but there are others, including some in my family, and now, myself and others who would consider it worse than dying. Must you decide where we belong or to where to **put** us?

While the possibility for that as it was is gone, there is still talk about small scale “Conservation Subdivisions” to allow affordable living and retain larger open areas; why not for Seniors? I understand you aren’t saying that Seniors can’t live there; but I believe the law says housing can’t housing restricted to Seniors or even advertised as such unless it meets the criteria specifically for Seniors – I believe that would necessitate the Town’s overlay.

Please think long and hard before taking this unnecessary step and further restricting Seniors’ options for living. The necessity of public water and existing Ordinance protects from the large condo projects you fear.

Thank you,

Lynda McDonald