

Westwood activists take selfish stance

Amherst officials should ignore a small activist group that lives near the former Westwood Country Club that is trying to derail a planned quarter-billion-dollar private investment in Amherst. The former Westwood Country Club property was primarily an exclusive, members-only site.

Activities there resulted in soil contamination and deterioration of buildings on the site. Local activists appear selfish with a “not-in-my-backyard” mentality that will deprive the entire town of a well-planned development that will increase the long-term tax base of the entire town.

The developer has promised to set aside 40 percent of the property for public access that includes bike paths and open green space. The open green space may be adequate to create retention ponds if necessary to mitigate any potential flood concerns.

Town residents should be pleased that the developer is cleaning up a contaminated brownfield using private money and proposes a development the entire town can benefit from and enjoy.

It is unfortunate that a few nearby residents can disrupt progress for their own selfish interests. Town politicians need to ignore the few complaints and be reminded that they represent all town residents.

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