

216 Canaan Back Road

Barrington, NH 03825

January 16, 2024

Barrington NH Planning Board

4 Signature Drive

Box 660

Barrington, NH 03825.

To the members of the Barrington NH Planning Board,

I am enclosing a copy of my thoughts and concerns about the proposed Subdivision on Canaan Back Road and Old Settlers Road: The Coot Farm Subdivision.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Rowe Betjemann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Barbara Rowe Betjemann

My Name is Barbara Betjemann.

My husband and I have lived happily at 216 Canaan Back Road since 1999. Our daughter, her husband and three children also live in Barrington.

The Canaan Back Road and old Settlers Road Neighborhood must be protected and conserved from the proposed Coot Farm subdivision in order to maintain its rural character, scenic beauty and small-town traditions.

On the Barrington Website Master Plan Final Chapters is the 2017 Vision and Community Character Chapter Update which states: MASTER PLAN VISION The following statements are constructed in a way that is intended to present the Town's 2027 vision as realized. In 2027, Barrington continues to maintain its rural character, scenic beauty, and quintessential small-town traditions that promote its high quality of life.

It further goes on to say:

Protection, stewardship, and management of the town's natural resources remain a high priority resulting in important land conservation efforts that offer ecological benefits to wildlife, improve water quality, and provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

In addition to:

Ensure development is compatible with its community character.

Guide development along existing commercial corridors and away from environmentally sensitive areas.

.We are a friendly neighborhood and all its residents feel both privileged and grateful to live here. The neighborhood has a long history.

The Coot Farm was settled by the Hill family in 1755-1758. Their cemetery is still exists on Coot Farm.

The Boodey Farm across Canaan Back Road from the Coot Farm is still a working farm, raising and selling beef and selling hay as they have done for ten generations.

The abutting Historic Site Canaan Chapel which is maintained by the Boodey

Family continues to celebrate an annual service and hosts weddings.

The Free Will Baptist Christian denomination has it's origin in this neighborhood of Canaan

as well. Many cemeteries, with the remains of early settlers and their descendants dot the Canaan area. This historic character of this Canaan area would be destroyed by the proposed Coot Farm subdivision.

The Coot Farm and its unspoiled wetlands provides a safe and enduring habitat for varied wildlife as it has for thousands of years and must be conserved.

The Coot Farm area is further identified on a map by the following from the Barrington Master Plan Website:

Natural Resources Assessment and C-Occurance Mapping in

2019

“The goal of this project was to identify and prioritize key areas for conservation and protection that provide habitat for wildlife, preserving rare or sensitive species and ecosystems, and ensures the sustainability of the ecological services that support high quality of life in Barrington, NH.

Conservation Focus Areas still remain for protection efforts include areas west of Nippo Lake.”Page seven of that report indicates that the Coot Farm area is Ranked Highest Habitat in NH. “Page 13 states that the land west of Nippo Lake is of “highest conservation value and connectivity. “In addition, no one in this town wants to see their taxes rise to underwrite the financial impact of the proposed Coot Farm subdivision would have on Barrington. If we as seniors are notable to remain in our homes due to increasing property taxes resulting from the proposed Coot Farm subdivision, the Town’s Vision of quality of life for all will be destroyed. A n impact chart of

all the Barrington Departments of services and equipment would be proof  
that this Subdivision must not be approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Betjemann".

Barbara Betjemann