



Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission Support Littleton Water's Whitcomb Ave. Project

LITTLETON – The Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission have formally voted to oppose a citizen's petition that asks Town Meeting to place conservation restrictions on the future site of a new water treatment plant.

In separate meetings on Monday night, the board and the commission both voted unanimously to recommend Town Meeting voters not support Article 18, a citizen's petition proposed by an abutter of the planned treatment plant location.

The Littleton Water Department plans to build a water treatment plant on Whitcomb Avenue, adjacent to the VFW property. If Town Meeting votes to restrict the land for conservation, the project would be blocked and force LWD to consider more expensive and less environmentally responsible options.

The plan would improve the quality and quantity of water delivered to meet the needs of all Littleton residents. The Whitcomb Avenue well site is the only water source in Littleton without a treatment plant. The project also calls for replacing the aging wells and restoring adjacent wetlands to a natural habitat by removing the old highway garage and asphalt.

"The Board of Selectmen supports the Littleton Water Department because this project will benefit all the residents of the town and the department has a long history of protecting our environment and delivering clean water. The citizen's petition at Town Meeting would halt a project that improves both water quality and the environment," said Paul Glavey, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

In addition to Monday's votes to oppose the citizens petition, the project has received approvals to begin construction from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. In addition, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has also voiced support for the plan.

"The Littleton Water Department works hard every day to protect our town's environment and deliver clean and reliable water. This treatment plant is an important next step as we seek to improve the quality of the water and restore disturbed wetlands to a natural condition which protects our aquifer," said Nick Lawler, General Manager of Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments.

In May 2018, Town Meeting voters authorized the LWD to borrow up to \$7 million to construct the water treatment plant. While the initial concept was to locate the plant at the well site,

professional engineers determined building in the 100-year flood plain would add \$1 million to the cost of the project and recommended building the facility on LWD land across Whitcomb Ave. The plan has the additional benefit of moving the plant outside of the Zone 1 well protection area, a 400-foot radius buffer.

To learn more about the Whitcomb Avenue project, visit www.lclwd.com.

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