

From: Karen McCall <elephantsalive@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 10:02 PM
To: pb.admin@effinghamnh.net
Subject: Fwd: Vote against Meena LLC

To the Effingham Planning Board:

A few years ago, Effingham citizens wisely voted to protect the Ossipee Aquifer by creating a groundwater protection ordinance that explicitly prohibited gas stations. Once groundwater is contaminated, it is nearly impossible to restore an aquifer to its pristine state or to contain the damage because polluted plumes migrate throughout the aquifer. Also, while it is possible to mitigate the damage, the cost of doing so is often exorbitant. Gas stations are one of the most dangerous kinds of businesses to put in ecologically vulnerable areas because gas stations inevitably pollute groundwater with toxic materials. It does not matter that the underground storage tanks are state of the art. Experience shows that underground tanks inevitably leak at some point in the future and gas stations always will have toxic runoff from their above ground operations.

A grievous mistake has been made. A mistake that may imperil human lives and threaten the economies throughout the Ossipee watershed. The Effingham ZBA made a mistake when they granted a variance to Meena, probably because they did not understand the complex ecology of the Ossipee Aquifer. Now, however, we all have come to understand that Meena could not have picked a worse place to build their gas station. The old Boyle's Market location is one of the most sensitive recharge areas on the entire aquifer and one protective layer of gravel has already been excavated leaving this area even more vulnerable.

Meena cannot be trusted. This company installed underground storage tanks without a permit and without approval. This same company has also been red flagged for failing to protect the Aquifer in another location. Meena's attorney has frequently failed to cooperate with the Effingham Planning Board's requests to submit documents in a timely fashion. North Point engineering has reviewed Horizon's (Meena's engineering company) submissions approximately four times yet Horizon keeps doing it wrong. This company is either incompetent and untrustworthy. Throughout this entire lengthy and thoroughly avoidable process, Meena and its representatives have failed to follow local rules, regulations and requirements.

A mistake has been made. One with potentially life-threatening consequences. We cannot trust Meena LLC to fix it. We cannot trust Horizon to fix it. In fact, there is no "fixing it." What we are asking for is that the Effingham Planning Board to demonstrate their wisdom and courage to vote against Meena and protect the health and livelihoods of the citizens who elected them and to avoid causing economic upheaval and disastrous health consequences to the surrounding towns that rely on the Ossipee Aquifer for clean water.

Thank you,

Karen McCall
GMCG Aquifer Protection Committee
Tamworth Resident