



Wakeman Conservation Center • RFD Box 319X • Vineyard Haven, MA 02568 • Tel. 508-693-5207 • Fax 508-693-0683

March 21, 1996

Mr. James Decoulos
Decoulos & Company
248 Andover Street
Peabody, Ma. 01960

Dear Jim,

Thank you for updating Jennifer, Bob and me regarding your plans for Map 12, lots 115 and 127 on Moshup Trail.

As you know, for several years the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has been assisting the Town of Gay Head in conserving the Moshup area, most actively in the past year and a half. The emphasis has been on conserving the scenic, cultural and ecological integrity of the "bend of the road" area which has such extraordinary importance to the Town and to the Island as a whole. The events of the past three months have highlighted just how important this area is and how much time and energy and expense is involved in this effort.

You have asked us to comment on your proposal to use the road into the former communication tower, and beyond, as access to lots 115 and 127. Assuming that you are correct in your assessment that this is an "ancient way" and that you have a legal right to use it as access, we none the less feel this would not be a good alternative for several reasons:

1. The Town has just taken some extreme measures to protect these lots (99,100,101) including the acceptance of State funding. This raises all kinds of questions regarding the appropriateness and legality of the use and "improvement" of this way for subdivision access. To have it used for development access would fly in the face of the efforts to protect the area.

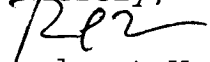
2. In order to get to lots 115 and 127 you would have to get DEP and Conservation Commission approval to "improve" the way over two or three additional lots which support extensive wetlands. Are these agencies likely to grant permits to alter wetlands on lands which are being proposed for acquisition?

3. You have earned a good reputation as a land planner on the Island and in Gay Head in particular, through your work for the Tribe and the Town. From a professional standpoint it seems risky to pursue an access which is bound to become a high focus issue and one which could damage your good image.

4. Finally, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is committed to the protection of this area and will likely be called upon to take a stand in opposition to your proposed access plan. This would not be pleasant. We would rather work with you on the kind of level you and Bob have been engaged in thus far with the Tribe and the Town.

Our hope and advice, Jim, would be to pursue other means of access to lots 177 and 115. Again, thanks for meeting with us.

Sincerely,


Resolvert W. Williams
President

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