

To Whitingham Voters:

In response to Dave and Barb Landers concerns about the proposed site for a new Town of Whitingham highway garage, please note the following:

The Landers are concerned that the town will be taking over “12 acres of farmland” at 1177 Town Hill Road in Whitingham. The field on the property will remain a hay field. The proposed garage site will be where the current buildings stand. The town's intent is to remove the dilapidated structures and build a modern, safe garage using as little of the land as possible and as far back from the road as possible.

The Landers state the proposed garage will be considerably larger. No designs have been made yet but the highway department does need more enclosed space.

The Landers are concerned that “small roads” were not designed to handle heavy machinery. Town Hill Road is a paved road and is wide enough to achieve safe traffic flow. The town has no control over the condition of a state highway such as Route 100 or Route 112. The town can, however, fix our own roads if they begin to deteriorate from the slightly increased truck traffic. Often, the highway trucks make a trip out in the morning, work all day and then return to the garage, minimizing the number of trips to the garage per day.

The Landers are concerned the town is moving too quickly without environmental and feasibility studies. The garage committee did not want to spend town funds on expensive studies without knowing if the voters were willing to purchase the property first.

A study was done on the current garage site on Route 100. The constrictions of the brook so close to the building, a nearby sewer line and the capped landfill on the property make expansion at the current garage site impossible. The current garage is becoming unsafe for our employees. The garage committee looked at 8 other parcels of land that are available for sale and none of them were adequate. The Town Hill parcel best meets the town's needs and it is located in the center of town. We are grateful for the generosity of the Twitchell family to make the Town Hill property available to the town at such a low price.

If Articles 12 and 13 are voted down, we will lose the opportunity to acquire a 12-acre piece of land for only \$20,000. If Article 14 is denied, funding for required studies will not be available.

We recommend that you vote YES on Articles 12, 13 and 14 on or before March 2, 2021.

The Whitingham Selectboard

Wayne W. Wood, Chair
Scoot Reed, Vice Chair
Craig Hammer
Phil Edelstein
Chris Walling

Highway Garage Committee

Marshall Dix, Chair
Richard Lemaire, Vice Chair
Scott Reed
Richard Tefft
Donnie Boyd
Allan Twitchell