

2/25/21

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Message:

Good Morning Jim-

I want to thank you, the rest of the Board and the Buzzard's Bay Coalition for your time last night. I have 2 follow up points, one brief and one longer-

1. Peter Meier added a good clarification to one of my questions-if Bourne chooses to pass on this version of wastewater management, can neighboring towns and the Maritime move forward without Bourne, dumping their wastewater into Bourne's waters?
2. On a related note, one point from the presentation that warrants further discussion is the current situation of the MMA discharging highly nitrogenated into Bourne waters- based on a swag from the bar chart, the MMA alone is responsible for approximately 66% as much Nitrogen load into Bourne's waters as the rest of the entire town! I understand from reading articles in the Enterprise that the MMA has a grandfathered exception ("Paul B. O'Keefe, vice president of operations for Mass Maritime, concurred that the academy's wastewater has a higher nitrogen content than what comes out of Wareham. That, he said, is because the college's discharge permit has no restriction on the amount of nitrogen that can be present in its wastewater."- Bourne Enterprise-Feb 15, 2018) that allows them to do this. I would say to representatives of the MMA that simply because you are allowed to do something doesn't mean you should, particularly for an institution that essentially lives and works on the water.

During the presentation, Bill Hubbard from the MMA specifically said "we're trying" with regards to reducing their Nitrogen load- while this may be true, I would like know exactly how hard they are trying. What part of their annual budget goes toward reducing this load vs., for example, acquiring new land surrounding the Academy, further expanding their student rolls and thus increasing their Nitrogen load into Bourne's waters, which, as they point out, is unrestricted.

I unfortunately understand that as a state institution the MMA does not answer to the Town of Bourne. However, an institution that claims in its mission to "combin(e) a rigorous academic program with a regimented lifestyle that instills honor, responsibility, discipline, and leadership" would seem to me to be willing to self police more than they are- and if they are not, the State of MA should step in and make them do it. MMA getting their own house in order would go a long way to reducing the amount of Nitrogen in Bourne's waters before getting into bringing wastewater for the nearly 100K people populating surrounding towns to send their wastewater here.

Kindest regards,

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