

# Correspondence received by the Concord Select Board Week Ending –February 16, 2026

1. Judy Perkins
2. Jodi Sperber
3. Jean and Alexander Easterday

Please Note: The Select Board Correspondence policy has been updated as of January 27, 2025. The letters posted here reflect the views and opinions of the author as recorded in the body of their email. Neither the Select Board nor Town staff have verified or reviewed the contents. The Select Board and the Town do not necessarily agree, condone, support or advocate the ideas expressed in these letters and have not verified any factual statements made in the letters.

Dear Select Board,

Apropos the impending trial concerning the development of this lot, I am writing to say (and remind) the Select Board has pledged to defend this lawsuit by Archstone and we want your full support. The neighborhood supports the decisions the HDC has made on this matter, and we neighbors in the historic district are concerned that this developers wants to bully, threaten and intimidate the HDC (as they have done repeatedly) to change course in order to seek financial gain. This is counter to our desire for adherence to the goals and significance of our historic districts and the character they perpetuate in Concord. We value them and don't want them to be inappropriately misused or mismanaged.

We will closely watch the proceedings of the board and, if necessary, any litigation.

Thank you for all the work you do,

Judy Perkins

322 Barrett's Mill Rd

Dear Members of the Select Board,

I wanted to thank you again for the proclamation condemning antisemitism and for the care with which you approached it.

I heard the public comment at the opening of the February 2 Select Board meeting, and (sigh) it did not take long for the relevance of that values-setting to become apparent. An individual took a creative approach to criticizing elements of the proclamation in their comments, parodying Dr. Seuss's One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish, and used that framing to repeatedly label others as "fascists," while also noting, "This one has a little star" and suggesting that Israel directs others' actions. I won't restate the full remarks, as you heard them as clearly as I did, but they served as a clear example of the kinds of expressions communities are increasingly encountering.

At the same time, I think it is worth noting what did not happen. Recognizing the language as antisemitic (which I would, particularly the "little star") did not lead to any legal action, censorship, or punishment. The comment was heard, the meeting proceeded, and no one's speech was curtailed. That reality runs counter to claims that referencing the IHRA definition chills free speech. Speech continues; what changes is our shared ability to name harm when it appears.

I also want to express appreciation for the steadiness required to manage moments like this — moments that can be painful, distracting, and designed to provoke — while you focus on the town's actual work. That professionalism does not go unnoticed.

Thank you again for your leadership and for setting a clear tone about the values Concord stands for, even when those values are tested almost immediately.

With appreciation,

Jodi Sperber

**TO:** Concord Select Board; Town Manager Kerry LaFleur

**CC:** Deputy Town Manager Megan Zammuto; Concord Recreation Commission; West Concord Advisory Committee

We attended the February 4th West Concord Advisory Committee (WCAC) meeting, where the Town presented its proposal to site a wireless facility at Rideout Playground and indicated that a Request for Proposals (RFP) would be issued in the coming weeks.

For many residents, both the proposal and its timing came as a surprise. Unlike the extensive public outreach conducted by the Town in 2023 and thereafter regarding the Concord Center coverage gap, there has been no comparable engagement for West Concord. The WCAC meeting was the first opportunity for public comment, yet many residents were unaware that the discussion was taking place.

At that meeting, the Deputy Town Manager explained that she is proceeding based on a Select Board mandate to have a wireless project underway for West Concord in FY26 and on the understanding that Rideout is considered an acceptable site. We are concerned that this accelerated timeline is driving the Town toward issuing an RFP before adequate analysis, comparison of alternatives, or meaningful community engagement has occurred—particularly given that West Concord does not face the same demonstrated urgency as Concord Center.

#### **Coverage Need Has Not Been Demonstrated to Warrant a Rushed Solution**

Residents report that cell service in West Concord is generally reliable. This stands in contrast to Concord Center's long-standing and well-documented coverage gaps.

The Board has raised questions about potential concerns at Thoreau Elementary School. The Thoreau Parent Teacher Group confirmed that the principal and staff are not concerned about cell service at Thoreau and that service is "decent," with staff primarily relying on WiFi (Attachment A – Thoreau Email). There is no documented safety issue requiring accelerated action.

#### **Just Like Emerson Park, Rideout Is an Inappropriate Site for a Cell Facility**

Rideout is a heavily used community playground that supports youth sports and daily family activity and is located within a dense residential neighborhood. A 90-foot monopole with associated ground equipment would materially alter the scale and character of the park while permanently reducing active play space (Attachment B – Visual Example).

Residents have also expressed concerns regarding perceived health impacts and potential effects on nearby property values—considerations that the Town's zoning bylaws are designed to evaluate and address through consistent siting standards.

In 2004, Town Meeting voted to remove Rideout from consideration as a cell facility site following collaboration among residents, the Town Manager, and the Select Board (Attachment C – Town Warrant Article). There was broad agreement that a playground is not an appropriate

location for a cell facility. That history warrants careful consideration as the Town evaluates potential sites today.

Given that Concord Center has faced years of far more severe and long-standing coverage challenges without ever proposing Emerson Park—or even analyzing it—as a solution, it is reasonable to ask whether siting criteria are being applied consistently across Town-owned recreational spaces.

### **Better Alternatives Deserve Proper Evaluation**

Potential alternatives—including the West Concord MBTA parking area—appear more consistent with the Town’s zoning bylaws and siting guidelines. The MBTA has acknowledged coverage gaps along the Fitchburg Line (Attachment D – MBTA Coverage) and may be open to collaboration for that site.

The Deputy Town Manager has indicated that pursuing the MBTA option, while promising, would require additional time that could conflict with the Select Board–imposed FY26 timeline. As a result, Rideout has been identified as the likely candidate for the RFP. We respectfully suggest that the FY26 timeline should not take precedence over careful planning and full evaluation of alternatives. If additional time is needed to identify and evaluate appropriate sites, that time should be granted.

Decisions of this magnitude deserve transparency, consistency, and broad community input.

### **Request**

We respectfully ask that the Select Board not rush this decision. Specifically, we request that the Board:

- Pause advancement of a wireless facility at Rideout Playground;
- Delay issuance of an RFP for a West Concord wireless facility until spring 2027; and
- Allow sufficient time to evaluate demonstrated need, review alternative sites, apply consistent siting criteria, and engage residents through a public forum.

We share the Town’s interest in ensuring reliable communication infrastructure and recognize that additional facilities may eventually be needed in West Concord. We simply ask that any such determination be grounded in demonstrated need, careful analysis, and the same robust public engagement that characterized the Concord Center process.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to constructive dialogue on a solution that serves West Concord responsibly and thoughtfully.

Sincerely,  
Jean and Alexander Easterday  
48 Maple St., Concord

## ATTACHMENT A –Thoreau Email

On 02/07/2026 8:45 AM EST Thoreau PTG wrote:

**“...The principal and staff are not concerned about cell service at Thoreau.** They have decent service there and are on WiFi so it isn't much of a concern, ...”

**“Everyone I have spoken to has trouble in Concord Center. West Concord is much more reliable... “**

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On Tue, Dec 16, 2025 at 9:20 AM JEAN M EASTERDAY wrote:

Hello Thoreau PTG -

...As you may be aware, the town is considering the installation of cell facilities in Concord and the primary location they are considering at the moment is Rideout Playground.

One question folks have is how bad the coverage is in West Concord today and a primary concern is coverage at Thoreau School. Of course, the community would want to be sure cell coverage is optimal at the schools.

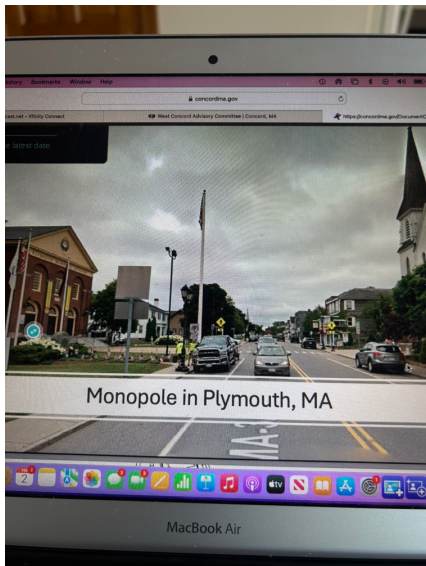
Are you aware of any cell coverage issues at the Thoreau Elementary School?  
I would appreciate any thoughts you may have on this matter...

## ATTACHMENT B – VISUAL EXAMPLE

Deputy Town Manager stated: **“a monopole in the style I showed in the presentation [83 Court Street, Plymouth, MA] is what is being looked at for Rideout...”** She is still researching the dimensions of the ground level equipment that Rideout would need to accommodate.

We recommend the Select Board, Town Manager and other interested parties visit this site in person before making such an impactful decision for Rideout Playground and the surrounding neighborhood, when other alternatives are available.

Plymouth Monopole Visual Provided by the Town of Concord



Plymouth monopole visuals from a February 2026 site visit. The structure is visually prominent and materially changes the character of the surrounding area. It is approximately twice the height—and considerably greater in overall scale—than the existing flagpole at Rideout.



## **ATTACHMENT C –TOWN WARRANT ARTICLE**

Provided by Concord's, Asst. Town Clerk

### **PROPOSED**

ARTICLE 31 AS PRINTED IN THE 2004 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

### **LONG-TERM LEASE AGREEMENT FOR WIRELESS FACILITIES**

**ARTICLE 31.** To determine whether the Town will vote to authorize the Town Manager to enter into long-term lease agreements and/or grants of easement in connection therewith, under terms and conditions approved by the Board of Selectmen, with one or more wireless communication providers, for wireless communication towers, facilities and related equipment, to be located on the following municipally owned parcels:

Parcel #3008-1	97A Old Marlboro Road	Jennie Duggan well
Parcel #3079	78X Old Marlboro Road	CMLP Facility Site
<b>Parcel #2244</b>	<b>61 Lawsbrook Road</b>	<b>Rideout PlayGround</b>
Parcel #1979	40Y Annursnac Hill Road	Annursnac Hill Reservoir
Parcel #0844	22 Monument Square	Town House and flagpole in Monument Square
Parcel #2456	1201 Main Street	Fire Station #2
Parcel #2971-3	3 Forest Ridge Road	CMLP Facility Site

and to take such action as may be necessary under state law to effectuate said lease, or take any other action relative thereto.

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### **OUTCOME**

## **2004 Annual Town Meeting April 26, 27 and 28, and May 3**

### **LONG-TERM LEASE AGREEMENT FOR WIRELESS FACILITIES**

**ARTICLE 31.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To authorize the Town Manager to enter into long-term lease agreements and grant easements in connection therewith, under terms and conditions approved by the Board of Selectmen, with one or more wireless communication providers, for wireless communication facilities and related equipment, to be located on the following municipally-owned parcels:

Parcel #3008-1	97A Old Marlboro Road	Jennie Dugan Well
Parcel #1979	40Y Annursnac Hill Road	Annursnac Hill Reservoir
Parcel #2456	1201 Main Street	Fire Station #2
Parcel #2971-3	3 Forest Ridge Road	CMLP Facility Site

And to take such action as may be necessary under state law to effectuate said leases for use for wireless facilities.

Declared two-thirds majority vote

April 27, 2004

A True Copy Attest:

Anita S. Tekle

Town Clerk

## ATTACHMENT D – MBTA COVERAGE

### Fitchburg Line coverage “heat map”

#### ■ Usually OK (urban/denser tower areas)

- **North Station → Porter → Belmont → Waverley → Waltham**
- Often decent LTE/5G, with normal in-motion hiccups.

#### ■ Mixed / spotty

- **Waltham → Brandeis/Roberts**
- **Ayer → Shirley**
- **North Leominster → Fitchburg → Wachusett**
- You’ll see drops, but not typically long dead stretches.

#### ■ Most common dead/weak zone (longer drops)

- **Brandeis/Roberts → Lincoln → Concord / West Concord → South Acton → Littleton/Route 495 → Ayer**
- This “inner-suburban wooded / historic towns” stretch is the one riders most consistently call out as **nonexistent to spotty** service.