

Correspondence received by the Concord Select Board
Week Ending – May 19, 2025

1. Jennifer Hurley-Wales
2. Paul Macone

Please Note: The Select Board Correspondence 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.

From: [Mary Hartman](#)
To: [Shannon McAndrew](#)
Subject: Fw: Warrant #46
Date: Monday, May 19, 2025 6:08:36 AM

From: Jennifer Hurley-Wales <hurleywales@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 9:24 PM
To: Wendy Rovelli <wrovelli@concordma.gov>; Terri Ackerman <tackerman@concordma.gov>; Mark Howell <markhowell@concordma.gov>; Mary Hartman <mhartman@concordma.gov>; Cameron McKennitt <cmckennitt@concordma.gov>
Subject: Warrant #46

To the Select Board:

Warrant Article #46 proposes a significant, large-scale, and multi-faceted development that should not be rushed into existence without proper vetting, transparency, and public process.

We welcome New England Deaconess as the new owner of the 12-acre parcel near Old Marlboro Road and ORNAC, and we have expressed that support—along with many of our neighbors—at every public and private meeting regarding their proposed zoning overlay.

However, that support does not extend to approving a sweeping rezoning effort without the careful planning such a complex project demands.

This proposal represents a dramatic shift in this land use—a zoning framework that does not currently exist in Concord. The implications are far reaching (many positive) and it is being introduced not through the Town Planning Board, as is typical and appropriate for projects of this magnitude, but through a citizen's petition. That is concerning.

The scope of this development warrants a thorough and deliberate public planning process. Yet discussions with the neighborhood only began two months ago. Why, then, is this proposal being fast-tracked to a vote at the June Town Meeting?

The residents of Old Marlboro Road, whose homes abut the property, have serious and legitimate concerns about what this proposed language would allow. Ours is a residential neighborhood, and we want to ensure that any development on this parcel keeps it as such. Each meeting with the Deaconess team has revealed evolving and shifting plans—hardly the mark of a proposal ready for final approval.

This concept is not ready. It needs more time, more clarity, and more public input. The Planning Board should be leading this process, ensuring a thoughtful, transparent approach—not bypassed in favor of an expedited citizen petition.

This is an important project for Concord, let's get it right!

Jennifer and Ed Hurley-Wales, Old Marlboro Rd

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Jennifer Hurley-Wales
978.505.5764
Concord, MA

May 19, 2025

To the Select Board and Finance Committee:

In June 2023, Town Manager Kerry LaFleur fired Budget and Purchasing Director Jon Harris. Jon had 21 years of admirable service with the Town and was respected by his peers during his tenure in the Finance Department. I know because I worked with Jon for years on many occasions regarding procurement, large purchases and building projects, to mention a few. At the time of the firing, Jon was responsible for developing budgets, producing budget books, and converting the ERP software from Admins to Munis. Kerry offered Jon \$21,711 to keep quiet about the firing. Soon thereafter and a week after Jon had his lawyer contact the Town to begin discovery about the firing, then Chief Financial Officer Gail Dowd resigned.

Since then, the Town was unable to produce a budget book in FY25 and only produced a marginal budget book in FY26.

As for the ERP conversion, although everything was in place to successfully convert to Munis when Jon left, the Town has had its problems. Because the Town wasn't ready when it decided to go live with Munis in October 2023, the Town has needed to license both Admins and Munis through FY25 at an unexpected and unbudgeted cost of **\$60,360**. To clean up the conversion mess, the Town has paid the consulting firm, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA), **\$89,579.03** as of May 6, 2025.

During the last three years, the Finance Department has been a revolving door of employees, and there have been recent issues with coming up with a statutorily mandated balanced budget.

Kerry's management decisions have cost the Town **\$150,209.03**, in addition to ongoing turnover problems and demonstrated incompetence in the Finance Department. It seems to me that this isn't good management, and we, the taxpayers, are footing the bill for these avoidable costs and mismanagement.

Paul Macone