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To: Planning Commission Re: Preserve

As I understand it there are two factors concerning traffic - capacity and safety.

Traffic engineers deal with capacity and the numbers can be manipulated to suit the developer and/or the town.

My concern is with safety - particularly on Bokum Road. As our doctors are on the Essex end of Bokum Road we travel it with some regularity.

My husband has a GMC SUV, wider than a regular car. The road is so narrow and curvy and closed in on much of it by shrubbery etc. that if another large vehicle comes from the other direction we have to pull very close to the edge of the pavement in order to allow safe passage. If the on-coming vehicle is larger than ours, then we pull off and wait for it to pass.

I understand that Bokum was an Indian chief and that the history of this road together with the current residents on either side prohibits the widening or straightening of it.

I strongly urge the Planning Commission to disapprove the development of the Preserve.

There are other inhibiting factors as well - the shortage of water not only in our state but in most states across the country, the use of water for the golf course together with pesticides or whatever is needed to keep it in a pristine state for the golfers, and the subsequent run-off of the water that is tainted by the chemicals.

There is also the issue of road construction and maintenance and the prohibitive cost of the bridge replacements when they need to be re-constructed.

The water treatment plant may very well solve septic issues but how will the town be protected from assuming responsibility for its maintenance?

And there are the issues of a new school, more police, and more firemen together with a fire station on the property.

The many complications of the environment in and around the Preserve are also large factors in my decision to oppose development on the last 1000 acre piece of land along our shoreline.

Respectfully, Jean Castagno