

Heads They Win, Tails We Lose!

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Fox Hill rezoning proposal. Having spent my professional life in the business world, I am a skeptic by nature and bring a somewhat unique perspective to this debate. Bottom line, I believe that a group of investors, led by a Wall Street trained professional, is trying to 'pull the wool' over the eyes of trusting Camden residents.

Having been approached as a potential investor, I can attest to the enormous profit potential of this endeavor. The promises of new jobs and outreach programs, as well as the threat of subdivisions are ploys to divert focus from their goal of enriching themselves. Fox Hill offers an extraordinarily high profit that will allow a Wall Street executive to maintain his standard of living and enjoy a personal residence within Fox Hill; all of which is made possible by wealthy patrons paying \$50,000 per month and the acceptance of spot zoning by the residents of Camden.

As a community, we are being asked to assume enormous risk. We cannot rely on the illusion of year-round jobs and potential outreach benefits, nor should we believe that this proposal will prevent future subdivision. Once we allow spot zoning, the 'horse is out of the barn'. There will be no going back if an insufficient number of local residents are employed or if the efforts to address alcohol abuse problems Heads They Win, Tails We Lose within our community become unfulfilled campaign promises. In short, the residents of Camden will be providing a free option to Rodman and company. If Fox Hill is successful as a rehab facility, they realize enormous profits. If Fox Hill is unsuccessful, we bear the costs and face a future subdivision. Heads they win, tails we lose!

I understand that some residents are asking the Planning Board to allow the town to vote on this issue, claiming that it is too important to end the debate with the Board. To the contrary, this proposal is nothing more than a Wall Street-sponsored investment proposal. We are being asked to 'invest' in this business by approving spot zoning, with a 'sales pitch' that may be the norm from a stockbroker, but not for the Camden voter. As the Planning Board, it is your responsibility to function as our safeguard. We are being offered promises from an individual that lacks a track record within our community.

This debate is costing us time and money. It is time for the Planning Board to make the decision that it was appointed to make, and say NO to spot zoning!

Sincerely,

David R. Weil,
2 Limerock Street, Camden