

John Wadsworth
One Ridge Avenue
Natick, Massachusetts

October 20, 2006

Mr. Craig Ross
Natick 360
Virtual Media Resources, Inc.
17 South Avenue
Suite 5
Natick, MA 01760

Re: Natick 360

Dear Mr. Ross:

Over the summer we had a sprinkler system installed at our house. During the installation, the contractors remarked about how friendly the neighborhood was, and how many of our neighbors stop by to chat with us and with them. They ended up securing quite a bit of business in the neighborhood as a result.

They mentioned that they do work in many other surrounding communities – Wellesley, Weston, Wayland, etc. – and that this sort of thing rarely happens. They said in those communities, it appears the neighbors often do not know each other, and there is very little interaction.

That to me highlighted the strength of Natick as a community. It is a series of neighborhoods, many of which function extremely well in fostering "community".

I have been involved in the West Natick Neighborhood Association, and was interviewed by the Metro West newspaper, exploring the reporter's observation that Natick has many more neighborhood associations and groups than surrounding communities. That is Natick's strength, and any vision for the future needs to keep that in mind.

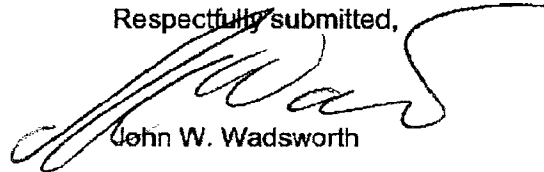
The West Natick Neighborhood Association began in response to development of the Natick Mall. The mitigation we as a neighborhood sought from the Mall was all designed to foster the ability of neighbors to interact. We asked for sidewalks along Speen Street. We asked for better sidewalks connecting to the Mall so that residents can easily walk or ride bikes there. We asked for pedestrian crossings so that our kids can go from one neighborhood to the next. These may seem like simple things, but

these are the sorts of things that foster neighborhoods and community and will keep Natick the community that it is.

The Planning Board appears to have an understanding of this importance. Subdivisions are routinely asked to install sidewalks as a major part of mitigation. Being able to allow our kids to ride on Speen Street or Route 135 safely, will be a huge factor in whether downtown Natick is seen as the core of our community. No matter what you do to downtown to make it more attractive, if I feel that I can only enjoy downtown by driving there and parking, I will not bother.

So for Natick's future, revitalize the downtown, fill it with things that we and our kids will want to participate in, but make sure that all of Natick's neighborhoods can access each other and can access downtown. It may seem a small thing, but Natick already has a foundation of "community" in its many neighborhoods. It now needs to make sure that those communities can connect with each other, and can connect with a village center.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Wadsworth', written over the typed name.

John W. Wadsworth