

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I have 3 points and 1 concluding observation.

1. The board and the public should also get an update on another serious lawsuit involving the town. That is the lawsuit filed 7 months ago last August claiming a lack of due process on the cannabis situation.
2. Senator Gillibrand's website says the application for the CDS grant referred to in agenda item 8D is due in 3 days on April 1. It says they require 20% public entity share which is inconsistent with your plan. It also says only public entities can apply and the water district is not yet actually formed. My read is the town has no chance of getting what it seeks and it looks like a waste of \$6,000.

Question: Who is backstopping that \$6,000 so that taxpayers will not be burdened? That needs to occur to be consistent with this board's pledge that this project will not cost people outside of the district anything.

3. The 2023 financial statements on the town's website are inaccurate. More than \$200,000 of interest income was earned in 2023. That resulted from around \$5 million in the Open Space Fund that is restricted for just land purchases. The financial statements however do not show that \$200,000 added to the Open Space Fund account at yearend 2023. That is not GAAP and certainly not good accounting as it materially misstates unrestricted funds. This accounting mistake needs to be corrected. If those funds were actually used for anything other than their restricted purpose, that moves this problem into the more serious area of fraud.

Here's my closing observation. The wording that someone chose to use in the key agenda item tonight is despicable and slanderous. Shame on whoever was petty enough to lash out at a resident who is only seeking to protect rights that this board has so recklessly ignored.