

January 22, 1990

Dear Councillors,

We would like to invite you to a program on January 31st, at 7:30 at the Johnson Middle School in Walpole. We have a dynamic presentation featuring Lois Gibbs, one of the nation's top environmentalist who was responsible for the shutdown of LOVE CANAL. In addition, Hugh Kaufman and William Sanjour, of the Washington D.C. office of the EPA, will address our environmental concerns.

According to statistics, every landfill of the type proposed by the MWRA for the Walpole site, leaks. As you are well aware, the proposed landfill is sited in a location which has a strong potential of contaminating the Stop and Charles Rivers. Several towns downstream from this site have wells or reservoirs in close proximity to the Charles River. In view of this, your town could very well be directly impacted by hazardous water contamination.

As elected officials of your town, we are certain that you will be interested in attending this meeting and learning what we can do as a united front in preventing this landfill rather than fight to close it after the fact.

If you will R.S.V.P. with the Selectmen's office in the Norfolk Town Hall, we will be happy to reserve a seat for you. Please call on Tuesday or Wednesday from 1-5 P.M. and ask for Judy Murray (508 528-1408).

Sincerely,
S.O.S.(SAVE OUR STATE)
A GROUP OF CITIZENS CONCERNED
ABOUT OUR STATE'S ENVIRONMENT

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TOWN OF WALPOLE

Legislative Briefing

The Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) has proposed to site a sludge landfill on a 94 acre parcel adjacent to MCI Cedar Junction in the Town of Walpole. This location is inappropriate because it jeopardizes the environment, incurs unnecessary costs and creates siting problems for other communities as follow:

GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION: The landfill will be located near wells for a prison complex, a hospital, and private citizens. Furthermore, the groundwater divide between the Neponset and Charles River watersheds lies beneath the site. Since all landfills leak, there is the potential for widespread contamination not only in Walpole, but also in the towns downstream who rely on these watersheds for their drinking water. In fact, contaminants will flow back into Boston Harbor and perpetuate the pollution, so that the harbor will still not be fishable or swimmable in 1999 despite a \$6.2 billion cleanup plan.

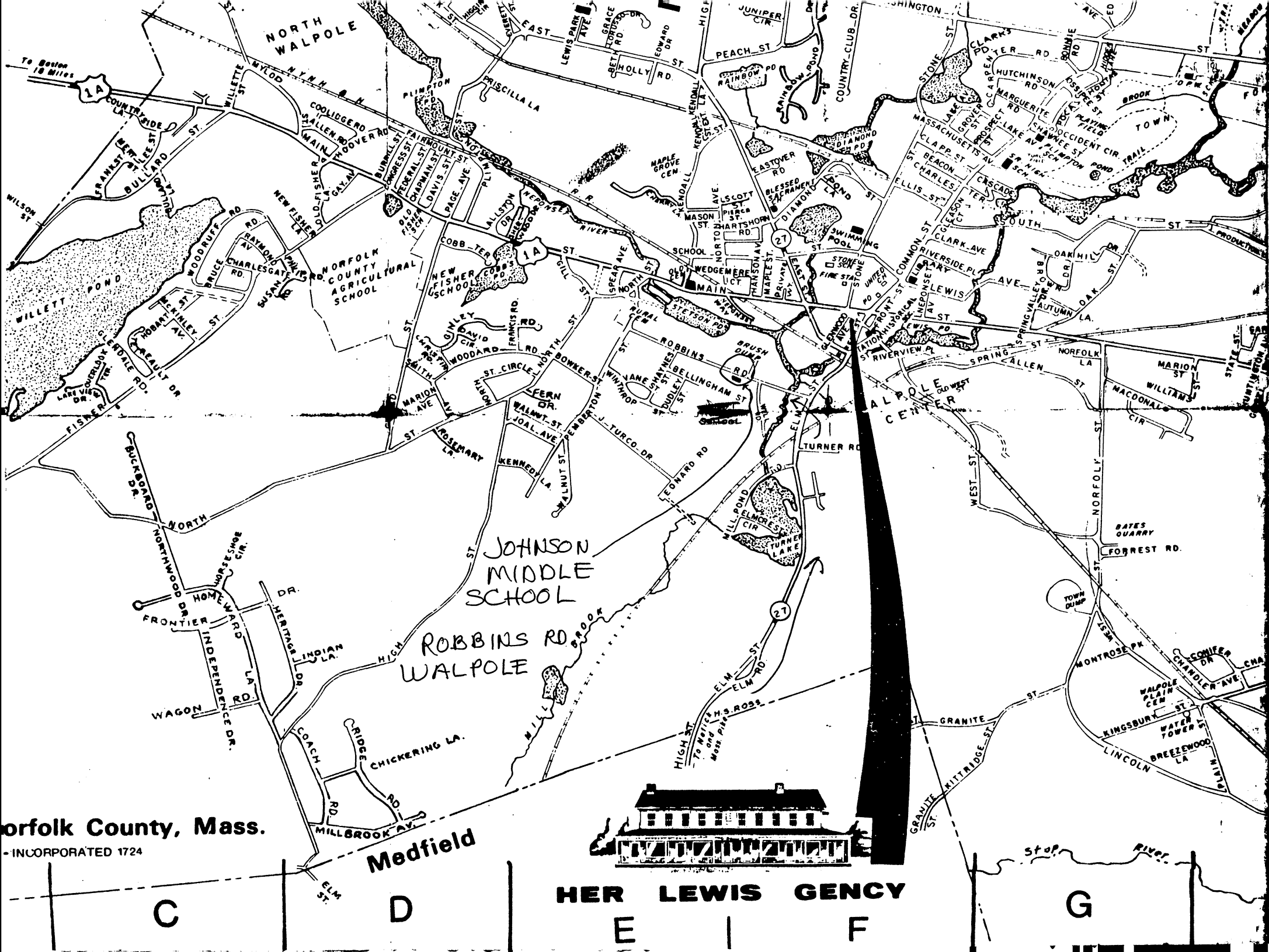
INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY: The capacity of the site is inadequate to meet the MWRA's needs. The MWRA and EPA agreed on August 10, 1989, that 3.17 million cubic yards was the minimum acceptable landfill capacity. The capacity of the Walpole site is only 2.38 million cubic yards, which is 75% of the requirement. In the near future, the MWRA will need to revisit the process and site an additional landfill in another town.

COMPETING PUBLIC USE: The site is already desperately needed for future prison expansion. George Vose, Commissioner of the Department of Correction, called the current shortage of prison beds "critical" in a Boston Globe article on September 12. He estimated a 3,000 prison bed shortage by 1998. Additionally, the landfill will be sited a mere 200 feet away from the prison walls. Odors, dust, and noise generated by the landfill could incite uprisings and endanger the prison guards and public safety. Contamination of the wells could force evacuation or closure of the prisons. Because of these drawbacks, the property should remain with the Department of Correction for prison expansion, and not transferred to the MWRA.

UNNECESSARY COSTS: The MWRA could save the projected \$47,800,000 capital cost of the Walpole site by contracting with existing private landfills to accept the grit, screenings, pellets, and sludge. There is a clear need for the MWRA to be in the wastewater treatment business. There is not a clear need for the MWRA to be in the landfill business, and the ratepayers should be spared this expense. The MWRA/EPA agreement of August 10, 1989 specifically recognizes the viability of private landfill use for residuals disposal.

Also, the Commonwealth should not burden the taxpayer with the unnecessary expense of paying for the purchase of more prison property in other communities when the Department of Correction already owns land in Walpole.

In conclusion, the MWRA can no longer afford to act irresponsibly by squandering both the ratepayers' and taxpayers' dollars. The agency was created to clean up Boston Harbor in an environmentally sensitive and cost effective manner, and not to abuse its legislative mandate by this total disregard of public welfare. Therefore, the Town of Walpole strongly urges you to oppose the transfer of the 94 acres in South Walpole from the Department of Correction to the MWRA.



Norfolk County, Mass.

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