

***DRAFT LETTER***

***Town of Essex Water Pollution Control Authority***

September 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: Town of Essex Zoning Commission, Zoning Enforcement Officer

At recent WPCA meetings the topic of short term vacation rentals i.e.: VRBO, Air B & B and such has been discussed with regard to septic usage and potential problems that may arise from short term rental uses. Septic systems are designed with delicate balances and the WPCA is concerned that when homeowners rent their properties for short periods of time, there may be a tendency to use the rental stay/term hosting many more individuals than the systems were designed for. For instance, a three bedroom home may be listed as sleeps 9 – 12 people.

As Zoning considers rewriting most or all of the Zoning Regulations we would ask that you consider adding some language to the regulations to help avoid potential issues that may arise from short term rentals.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Malan, Chair  
Town of Essex Water Pollution Control Authority

Cc: Board of Selectman  
Town of Essex Planning Commission