

Greensboro Association
Greensboro, VT 05841

January 28, 2006

Mr Larry Lumsden, Chairman
Greensboro Select Board
Greensboro, VT 05841

Dear Mr. Lumsden

I am writing to you as President of the Greensboro Association to express concern about the proposed residential mental illness facility being established at the site of the old Lakeview Inn.

I am certain that you have heard many opinions voiced by local residents, but I would be remiss if you did not hear the “voice” of the eight hundred plus members of the Greensboro Association.

First, I think it important to recognize the character of the town and community of Greensboro, what it has been, is now, and what we want it to be in the future. I believe that for over one hundred years it has been the peaceful, even tranquil, quality of life that has made this community so attractive. Rightly or wrongly, the establishment of a mental health facility in the middle of town would change all that. Perception is reality.

Second, the removal of any commercial property from the tax base places a greater burden on the rest of the tax base. The taxes in Greensboro are high enough, some would say too high, so that a non-profit, no matter what they say now, could in the future cease to pay taxes. And the impact on property values could be dramatic.

Third, and most important, the residents of this facility would be “integrated” into the community. This means shopping at Willey's Store and The Miller's Thumb, for their philosophy state, “Monitored community activities will be established in conjunction with residential readiness.” We are too small a community not to be substantially impacted by a facility and program of this sort.

On behalf of the members of the Greensboro Association, then, I ask that the Select Board look carefully at whether this use of the old Lakeview Inn property is an acceptable use for the town of Greensboro. I believe it is not.

Sincerely yours,

John B. Hewett, President
The Greensboro Association