

# Practical solution would reclaim history

When our forefathers came to establish a new town, later to be named Westford, they chose our present area for its "scenic beauty." They liked the hills, the meadows, the ponds and brooks. The soil was good, for they were principally farmers.

The new arrivals, mostly from Concord and Woburn, were mainly interested in finding an uncrowded place in which to rear their families. Soon they were to "gather" in 1725 to select a spot for the meeting house at the geographical center of the town, now our common. Here, sermons were preached and the residents gathered for town meetings and other business.

They worked long hours to clear the land of trees and rocks, to open spaces for crops and animal grazing. With little equipment they conquered many odds, but their farmlands were something to be held in beauty. It is sad to see these great farms obliterated. The areas where animals roamed, birds nested and wildflowers reached for the clear air are disappearing much faster than we wish, or recognize.

Too many new homes...and what shall we do about population explo-

sion? Not that we dislike people, but too much is just too much.

Fifty years ago, our population was a mere 4,000; today, it has more than quadrupled to 18,000.

Right now we are deeply concerned about the scooping up of 150 acres of prime conservation land, Lakeside Meadows, at Lake Nabbasset. Soon we will be confronted with the huge acreage, once part of the Fletcher Quarry holdings. And there are lesser problems, such as an overzealous developer now trying to clobber a beautiful scenic area where Beaver Brook gently enters Forge Pond.

We must set aside our sentimental views temporarily for the more practical. The time has come for the town to "buy back" some of its most attractive and feasible tracts of land before the clock strikes midnight. A bonded long-term buyout would be better for us, the taxpayers, than to build more schools and add other municipal requirements.

Our credit is good and we would be buying for our children something irreplaceable down the road.

I think it makes sense, so let's get busy and make some deals!

*Gordon B. Seavey*