

July 13, 2006  
The Middlesex School Board of Trustees  
The Middlesex School  
PO Box 9123  
1400 Lowell Road  
Concord, MA 01742

### Extension of Sports Fields Building into Estabrook Woods

The high value of the Woods as a regional resource for people and wild life has long been recognized, outstandingly by Henry David Thoreau and also by owners of land within and surrounding the Woods. Until recently, we note that this included the Middlesex School, whose Headmaster, Monk Terry was a leader in protecting the Woods.

Four years ago the Sierra Club joined with other civic and environmental bodies to oppose the opening up of the School's property within the Woods by the construction of an automobile accessible bridge across a stream and of tennis courts. We proposed that there were other, suitable sites near to the School which would avoid disturbing the Woods and could be constructed at much lower cost and with little impact on the environment. The necessary permits, however, were obtained and this first stage of development is almost complete. The predicted high impact on the site has been confirmed by the large amount of earth that had to be moved in order to create level areas for the tennis courts.

Now we are faced with a proposal to extend the construction into an area much further into the Woods in order to construct a football field. Because the level area will be much larger the effect on the topography of the site will be much greater. It has been estimated that 70,000 tons of forest soil will have to be moved.

We draw your attention to the very complete and thorough history of the Woods and concur with the conclusions in the letter written on behalf of Middlesex Graduates for Estabrook Woods. The Sierra Club urges the Board to remember the key roll played by the School in the preservation of the Woods and to not proceed with the plans for a football field in the Woods.

Gilbert K. Woolley  
Conservation Chair, Massachusetts Chapter

cc. Sierra Club, Massachusetts Chapter  
Middlesex Graduates for Estabrook Woods