

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tree Sit Protest To Continues into Second Day

5:30 AM, July 18, 2006, Concord, Massachusetts: Middlesex alumnae Molly Tsongas ('00) and Rachel Banay ('03) remain firmly ensconced in their trees along Lowell Road after more than 24-hours of sitting without receiving a satisfactory response from the Middlesex Board of Trustees. "We came here with very specific demands," says Tsongas, "to ask the Middlesex Trustees to agree to engage the stakeholders in a mediated dialogue. The goal of such a dialogue would be to reach an agreement that is satisfactory to all parties. We are also asking the Trustees to address specific moral and community-values issues that concern us deeply. We're prepared to remain in the trees overnight and into tomorrow until we receive a formal response that satisfactorily addresses our concerns." Middlesex School has threatened to "evict" the tree-sitters should they stay beyond today, but recently rescinded that threat.

The Middlesex Trustees issued a response to the tree sitters' invitation late yesterday afternoon, stating that they have operated in full compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations. Middlesex also cited instances of previous opportunities for discussion of the Estabrook Woods development project. While the tree sitters take no issue with the School's compliance, they feel strongly that the Trustees have never engaged their constituents in a meaningful way that is intended to find a middle ground. In a letter to the board, the tree sitters write, "We feel strongly that Middlesex, as an educational institution, has an obligation to go beyond compliance and to lead by example in preparing lifelong citizens of high moral and intellectual character."

Banay commented, "We are alumnae of the school and members of the community, and as such would hope that the Board of Trustees would pay us the respect we deserve. We await their further response."

Middlesex School has yet to respond to their constituents in a satisfactory way. "The ball is their court and they have two choices: address our concerns and offer us a meaningful dialogue or remove us from the trees by force," asserts Tsongas.

For background, other materials in this package include:

- Press release dated July 16, 2006 ("Estabrook Woods Press Release July 16.doc")
- Press release dated July 17, 2006 ("Estabrook Woods First Press Release July 17.doc")
- Contact List for Middlesex Graduates

Please contact Page Stites at (508) 207-5620 or pstites@estabrookwoods.org for further information.

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