



TOWN OF PRINCETON

Office of the Board of Selectmen

6 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541
(978) 464-2102 Phone (978) 464-2106 Fax
www.town.princeton.ma.us

AUG 19 2013

Stan Moss, Chairman
Edith M. Morgan, Clerk
Neil A. Sulmasy
selectmen@town.princeton.ma.us

John Lebeaux
Town Administrator
jlebeaux@town.princeton.ma.us

August 15, 2013

Planning Board
Town of Camden, Maine
Camden Town Office
29 Elm Street
PO Box 1207
Camden, Maine 04843

Re: The McLean Center at Fernside, Princeton, Mass.

Dear Members of the Planning Board:

I have been asked to comment on how The McLean Center at Fernside (Fernside) integrates into the town at large. Princeton is a rural residential community in North Central Massachusetts with a population of 3,413.

I have discussed the matter with various municipal departments and without exception the response is that Fernside is a positive addition to the community.

The Fernside property is located on arguably Princeton's most visually beautiful scenic road, Mountain Road. The facility's very well maintained buildings and grounds are extremely visible to the public and its appearance only enhances the travelled way.

The Assessors' Office reports that there has been no negative effect generated by Fernside to any property values of nearby parcels, all of which are residential.

The Police Chief reports that the number of public safety responses made to the facility is in no way burdensome on the resources of the Town's small Police, Fire and EMS agencies.

The facility qualifies for a 100% property tax exemption per Mass. General Laws. The Town and McLean Hospital Corporation executed a twenty year Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement in 2006. Payments are made promptly per the Agreement.

Fernside contributes to the local economy both as an employer and through its business relationships with area vendors.

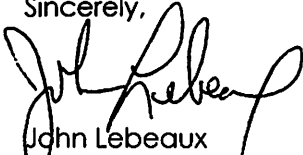
Planning Board, Town of Camden Maine
August 12, 2013
Page 2

In the four years I have worked for the Town I have not been aware of a single issue that has arisen between the facility and Town Hall, nor have I heard of any issues in the community. I have consulted with some staff members who also are long-time residents of the Town and they categorize Fernside as a good and quiet neighbor that has upgraded its physical plant, spends some of its money locally and is otherwise extremely unobtrusive.

In summary, I view Fernside's presence in Princeton as an asset to the community.

Please contact me if you'd like to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely,



John Lebeaux
Town Administrator

Cc: Dr. Phil Levendusky, McLean Hospital (via email)
Paul Gibbons, Esq.