

Thomas F. Trimble

Three reasons people end up in Burrillville –

- Wrights Farm Restaurant
- Lost
- Come to enjoy our woods, rivers and lakes

Welcome to our town.

I am from Pascoag, where the first family members settled over 150 years ago.

When I went away to URI, they called me farmer. — *was teased from Burrillville*
Oh, we were famous for our hockey teams of the 50's and 60's, but most people from the more urban parts of the state perceived anyone from Burrillville as a bunch of back-woods hicks.

But you know, it never really bothered me. Like most of the old timers that are still around, we liked our town just the way it was. Half hour from anywhere, isolated from the hustle and bustle of the cities. We raised our families to appreciate the outdoors and to provide meaningful outdoor activities no matter what time of the year it was. As you know, we don't hate winter up here – we embrace it!

Let me tell you why I am here and why I would like Burrillville to remain as it is.

Clean air –

A well known food processing company opened a plant in Burrillville in 1977. After an exhaustive search for a location, they decided to locate here. Their main reason? The purity of the air. Products from this company can be found all over the world. They currently employ XX people. But, since the main reason for locating here is the pure air, I would think they would not remain here should plans for this plant be approved to proceed.

Another more famous facility that was attracted to our clean air is Zamborono Hospital. It was founded in 1901. It was selected as a *site* to treat respiratory illnesses, tuberculosis in particular, because of its remote location and pure air. One of the treatments for the patients was sleeping outside on the porches of the wards year round. It became a world-renowned treatment facility in its day. It still operates and provides steady employment for many of our area residents.

Wallum Lake is a 322 acre natural lake. Unlike the man-made reservoirs in the area which were created to provide a source for water power for the area textile mills, it was formed by

of the bed of it
to
the retreating glaciers. It is a natural, on a smaller scale than that of the Finger Lakes in New York or Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. The water is so clear, you can see the rocky bottom 30 feet down. It was and is still used as a water source for the Zamborono Hospital and, as I remember back in the day, required minimal treatment to be used for safe consumption. It is about 1 ½ miles from the proposed site.

How I heard it
And, as so happens, Wallum Lake is one of the sources for the Clear River that meanders through our town. You know, I find it ironic that the proposed power plant takes its name from the Clear River. Pascoag takes its name from the native American Nipmuc tribe's description as "the place where the snakes cross." They probably had their own name for the river. The old timers from my boyhood days would talk about the old native American encampment on the banks of the Clear River. In fact, I have been up there, again within about a mile of the proposed plant. And knowing of the great respect the first inhabitants of this area had for the land, I'm sure they would be opposed to this desecration of their sacred woods.

Can't imagine what their thoughts would be.
A few pictures - Long growing Hemlock groves
 A covered bridge
 Pristine pond

30 miles
I don't wake up in the morning with my first thought of how we are going to combat global warming. I realize we need economical sources of power. But, I believe this "Super Store" of power plants will discourage the creation of the renewable energy source our state leaders so often talk about when they are in front of the cameras. They say they want to develop these zero pollution sources? Well, here is a perfect opportunity for them to put their words into action.

theater, restaurants, museums and galleries
I believe it.
Here is my point. Why do we have to sacrifice such an unspoiled section of our state to site this facility? We like to talk about the fine quality of life we have to offer in Rhode Island. Move to RI, and enjoy all the cultural and outdoor benefits. When we make these claims, we think of places like Providence or Jamestown or Narragansett. But Burrillville??? Who cares about Burrillville? Who even goes there?

Fly overs?
We may not get any mention in all the new brochures or promotional TV adds. But, those of us who live and raise our families here believe these lakes, rivers and forests are worth saving. Once it is altered, it is lost forever.



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