



Betty Jo Mahan &lt;bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org&gt;

**[MPC Comment] Reasoning proposal 10-O-15-RZ**

1 message

**Michael Lynch** <mlynch5396@hotmail.com>

Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 6:01 PM

Reply-To: mlynch5396@hotmail.com

To: "commission@knoxmpc.org" &lt;commission@knoxmpc.org&gt;

Cc: Marble Springs Director &lt;director@marblesprings.net&gt;

Dear Commissioners,

For just over two years, I have had the honor of serving on the board of the Gov. John Sevier Memorial Association, which cooperates with the State of Tennessee in managing Marble Springs State Historic Site here in Knoxville.

Marble Springs was the last home of John Sevier, who served as Tennessee's first governor. Sevier is most remembered as one of the principal architects of the campaign that ended in the Battle of King's Mountain, a crucial American victory of the Revolutionary War and Tennesseans' most important contribution to American independence. He was also a commander of Tennessee's state and territorial militia, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the only governor of the State of Franklin, which constituted the first attempt to form a separate state in what is now East Tennessee.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of Sevier's career to Tennessee's early history. Indeed, one of our most prominent historians wrote that Sevier's life story "is Tennessee history itself." Marble Springs is the only place devoted entirely to telling that life story, and it is a place that was very special to this most important figure of Tennessee's formative period. It was his place of refuge and a working farmstead during the years he spent as Tennessee's first chief executive.

I am writing to you because my fellow GJSMA board members and I are extremely worried about a proposed rezoning that I believe will have a significant and negative impact on Marble Springs: file no. 10-O-15-RZ, listed as item 48 on MPC's agenda for October 8th. The proposal is for a rezoning of land across W Gov. John Sevier Highway from Marble Springs, at the intersection of that highway with Neubert Springs Road, from Agricultural to Planned Residential.

The land in question is right on the doorstep of the historic site, and in fact was part of Sevier's original farm. The GJSMA board is concerned about this for several reasons. First, construction of apartments or other planned housing will impact the viewshed from the historic property and increase congestion in the vicinity of the site. In order to interpret the site properly as the working farm that it was, it is crucial to maintain as much a sense of its rural character as possible.

The site's rural and natural qualities are also important to members of the community for whom Marble Springs is a resource in ways unrelated to its historic significance. We frequently host Scout groups who camp and conduct programming on the grounds, hikers and walkers who enjoy our arboretum and trail, and people from across the region who rent the property for weddings and other events. We are delighted that Marble Springs offers these groups a secluded, peaceful venue to enjoy. They come to the site precisely because it is an oasis of green and rustic space in southern Knoxville.

Finally, additional construction could have a significantly negative impact on the cultural, archaeological, and natural resources of the area. Again, the land up for rezoning was part of Sevier's farmstead, and also shares the Stock Creek watershed with Marble Springs and the area's residents.

I hope you will maintain the scenic character of this beautiful part of southern Knoxville that is such an important part of what we do at Marble Springs. Thank you very much for your time, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any additional information that would be of help.

Michael Lynch

10/6/2015

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President, Gov. John Sevier Memorial Association

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This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)