

**From:** [Sibylle Pearson](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Wedding venue  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:54:30 AM

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I strongly urge the town Council to deny the variance on this island. It seems preposterous to allow the owner to endanger the ocean water quality - this is against an ordinance that has been enforced for decades - for good reasons. This site should never be used for business purposes that yield profits to individuals. Kittery ordinances are to be obeyed by everybody - no exceptions!

Sibylle Pearson  
Kittery Point resident

**From:** [Kendra Amaral](#)  
**To:** [Jillian Richards](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [kitteryme] Rice and what he wants to do with Gooseberry Islan (Sent by Andrew Pearson)  
**Date:** Sunday, September 24, 2023 6:36:43 PM

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**From:** Contact form at kitteryme <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2023 11:41 AM  
**To:** Kendra Amaral <KAmaral@kitteryme.org>  
**Subject:** [kitteryme] Rice and what he wants to do with Gooseberry Islan (Sent by Andrew Pearson,

Hello kamaral,

Message:

Please don't grant exceptions to the town code for Gooseberry Island. It's a greedy and completely inappropriate notion to make it a "venue" for weddings. Just awful for the island and the community. A septic system out there? It would pollute water around it in destructive ways. The harbor water is not so good to start with. Don't add to its issues. Rules and regulations are there for good purposes, don't let Rice undermine those purposes. Thanks. Andrew Pearson 53 Pocahontas Road, Kittery Point, ME 03905.

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**From:** [Ronald Vargo](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Letter regarding proposed septic variance amendment  
**Date:** Sunday, September 24, 2023 3:13:13 PM

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Good day honorable members of the Town Council,

I am writing to provide comments regarding the proposed first time septic variance amendment to Title 16's land use ordinance that the Town Council will be considering on September 25, 2023.

I am a resident of Kittery Point with a home on Pocahontas Road and have lived here for approximately 13 years. I have been encouraged by the fact that a limited number of shellfish licenses were recently granted to residents. Perhaps this is a positive sign that despite climate changes and human impacts, we are seeing some improvement in our coastal waters.

I am not well educated on the plans that James and Tudor Austin might have, nor do I know them personally. I am aware that they are the owners of 1 Gooseberry Island, a rather unique property in that it truly is a residence on small island in the Piscataqua River portion of Portsmouth Harbor. This letter is simply to provide a perspective on what the Austins may be considering when seeking a proposed variance amendment.

If the residence has an antiquated septic system that is failing and this request for a variance amendment is necessary in order to install a dependable and reliable system to treat residential sewage in this very environmentally sensitive location, it would seem to make sense. However, if there are plans that I am not aware of, for example, making use of the site for non-residential activities (I am assuming the property is zoned for residential use), or to increase materially the amount of wastewater that is to be disposed or treated, I have concerns with amending our current land use ordinance.

Similarly, if approving the request of the Austins would serve to open the door for others to modify their wastewater treatment in coastal areas, I would have additional concerns. Kittery's water resources are its crown jewels and jeopardizing the quality of those resources should be avoided if possible

Regards,

Ronald Vargo  
Pocahontas Road  
Kittery Point