

10/28/04

Wastewater plan victim of distortion

In this political season, it is not possible for voters to fact check every claim made by a candidate for public office. However, some claims are so outrageous that it is important to set the record straight.

The idea that Cape Cod will soon have a new taxing authority with the power to build an expensive central sewage treatment system costing homeowners thousands of dollars is simply not true.

The County's Blue Ribbon Wastewater Committee has basically two purposes:

1. Make certain that we have the political infrastructure to facilitate and encourage regional cooperation among the towns in order to solve, as economically and efficiently as we can, a problem that obviously transcends town boundaries.

2. Effectively attract state and federal funding support through an entity that shows regional collaboration rather than each town going it alone.

The question for political leaders in Barnstable County is, can a regional problem that seriously threatens our economic and environmental quality of life

be solved through a collaborative community process driven by leadership and expertise?

JOHN D. O'BRIEN

Harwich

The writer is a member of the "blue ribbon" committee studying and making recommendations on the issue.