

## Seabrook impact fee proposal remains defeated after recount

### Abramson says the article sought to have developers pay for construction impacts

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SEABROOK — A recount held Friday afternoon on town warrant Article 7 resulted in a slight change in numbers, but it did not affect the outcome, according to Town Clerk Bonnie Fowler.

The recount was requested and paid for by Albert "Max" Abramson, one of the sponsors of the citizens petition warrant article. The petition sought voter approval for adding impact fees, to be paid by developers, to Seabrook's zoning ordinances.

While the vote tally Election Day, Tuesday, March 8, reported a margin of just four votes, 647-651, Friday's recount in the selectmen's meeting room resulted in the adjusted vote tally of 637-646.

The purpose of the impact fee article, according to its supporters, would have been to mandate developers pay impact fees to help pay for town services when their projects add stress to the town's infrastructure.

Proponents of the petition argued the potential for added development exists in many areas of town, a claim that was disputed by the majority of the members of the Seabrook Planning Board.

Abramson said had the article passed, the measure would have helped to reduce taxes.

"Impact fees are already in use in most towns along the I-95 corridor, and would have forced developers to pay their share for hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in new vehicles and equipment needed to serve their new big-box stores, subdivisions, and drive-through restaurants. With no impact fees, the Seabrook Planning Board still forces residents to subsidize this new development through higher property taxes," he wrote in a letter to the editor to the Hampton Union.