

November 30, 2022

Conservation Commission
Via email: concom@wrentham.gov

RE: Sheldon Meadow Senior Living Community (SLC) (20 Hancock Street)
Sheldon West Senior Living Community (SLC) (1139 West Street)

Dear Members of the Conservation Commission:

I want to express my concern associated with the above proposed development. I understand the applicant has worked to ensure the surrounding wetlands won't be impacted by the proposed development, but I simply don't believe it's possible based on the applicant's proposed plan for trucking in large amounts of fill to the area. There will be a significant amount of foreign soil getting introduced to the area. The applicant filed an Illicit Discharge Statement saying to the best of the applicant's knowledge no illicit discharges exist on the site. However, the fill that the applicant intends to bring in is a great concern. Not only will this cause dust, potential health risks and aggravation to the neighborhood, but there will likely be long term effects to the surrounding wetlands and drinking water supply. I reviewed the Environmental Protection Agency's website to find out what type of potential risks may be associated with the introduction of this large amount of foreign soil. Particulate Matter, also called particle pollution is defined as dust, dirt, etc. The EPA website further discusses the risk of environmental damage associated with the introduction of Particle Matter. "Particles can be carried over long distances by wind and then settle on ground water. Depending on their chemical composition, the effects of this settling may include:

- making lakes and streams acidic
- changing the nutrient balance in coastal waters and large river basins
- depleting the nutrients in soil
- damaging sensitive forests and farm crops
- affecting the diversity of ecosystems"

Source: (<https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/particulate-matter-pm-basics#PM>)

I want to bring this to your attention, because although the applicant has worked to keep the proposed development outside the wetlands area, the wetland area will not remain unaffected by the construction, amount of foreign fill brought in with unknown origins, and the future Particulate Matter introduced by residents if the project is approved and developed.

I'd like to draw attention to Appendix A:

Wrentham General Bylaws, Chapter 375 Wetlands Protection

The Wetlands Protection Act

§ 375-1 **Purpose.**

The purpose of this bylaw is to protect the wetlands, related water resources, and adjoining land areas in the Town of Wrentham by controlling activities likely to have a significant or cumulative effect upon the important public values of those areas, **which include, without limitation, the following: public or private water supply, groundwater supply**, flood control, erosion and sedimentation control, storm damage prevention, protection of surrounding land and other homes or buildings, water pollution control, fisheries, wildlife habitat, agriculture, recreation, and the historic and natural scenic character of wetland resource areas, watercourses, lakes and ponds (collectively, the "interests protected by this bylaw").

I further want to reference the Burden of Proof requirement:

§ 375-8 **Burden of proof.**

The applicant shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the credible evidence that the work proposed in the permit application will not have unacceptable significant or cumulative effect upon the interests protected by this bylaw. Failure to provide adequate evidence to the Commission supporting this burden shall be sufficient cause for the Commission to deny such permit or to grant a permit with conditions.

I respectfully ask the Commission to consider the information I reference from the EPA website and the letters written by concerned residents, and ask for a denial of the proposed project, because the applicant has not satisfied the burden of proof requirement.

Thank you for your time,

Katherine Duggan

Kate Duggan
58 Hancock Street