

Ledbetter, Heather

From: Shaylin Walsh Hogan <shaylinwalshhogan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Planning; ConCom
Subject: 1139 West Street/20 Hancock Street

Dear Conservation and Planning Board Committee Members,

I am a (new-ish) resident of Wrentham and reside on Oxbow Drive. Recently, I learned about some proposed developments in the Sheldonville area of West Wrentham, and my heart sank reading the details of the proposal.

We sold our house in Wilmington, MA in 2020 and moved to Wrentham in early 2021, in large part due to the overdevelopment (and, by effect, destruction of the natural landscape) in Wilmington. In the fewer-than-ten years we lived in Wilmington, we saw removal of trees, redirection of water, and, to put it simply, UGLY development. Where once there was forest and hills, now there are cookie-cutter houses that are too expensive for many people to inhabit. There are roads where there was room for wildlife to live, and now the wildlife has to take refuge under sheds or are left to languish.

Please don't let this happen in Wrentham. We moved here because of the care the town has taken to prevent such projects. This proposal, in particular, is putting our natural landscape and wildlife, not to mention gentle growth, at risk with these projects. Once the water table is broken, it cannot be fixed. The need to truck in tens of thousands of cubic yards of fill to make the land inhabitable should be a clue that this project is fit for the location proposed. We cannot undo this kind of damage, and by the time we will need to rectify it, the business making the proposal will be long gone, leaving the town to pay for their greed.

My understanding is that this proposal was/is intended to benefit residents of a certain age, but that intention and written proposal do not appear to align, and I am confident the senior members of our community would prefer not to damage our town irrevocably for the sake of newer homes that are built under the guise of "affordable." How affordable will our town be for anyone if the already overtaxed, and aged, water infrastructure breaks down due to this development?

I would urge both boards to consider what the negative impacts of this proposal will be in the long-term before making a decision. Further, I would ask that the committees continue to protect the beautiful town in which we live.

Respectfully,
Shaylin Hogan