

Ledbetter, Heather

From: Paula Sullivan <paulasullivan00@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 9:14 AM
To: Planning; ConCom
Subject: Opposition to planned developments at 1139 West St and 20 Hancock St

TO: planning@wrentham.gov and concom@wrentham.gov

Dear Wrentham Planning Board and Conservation Commission members:

We are writing to express our opposition to the planned Senior Living Communities (in name only) at 1139 West Street and 20 Hancock Street.

I've been lucky to live in Wrentham since 1998 and have found this town to be the ultimate in "small country town" living. Yes, there has been growth and we're lucky to have land to accommodate. But we believe these proposed projects do not really address the need for *affordable* senior housing, are completely unsuitable to these very wet sites, make a mockery of our zoning bylaws, and will have devastating consequences for the Sheldonville area.

Even after plan revisions, the applicant proposes to truck in nearly 70,000 CY of fill (4,250 truckloads by its own estimate) and raise some existing grades by approximately 4 feet or more, to put in septic systems. The resulting severe grade changes will change drainage and water flow, and could cause flooding both on the sites, and on abutting properties. Residents and taxpayers of Wrentham may well be stuck cleaning up the mess if that happens and the out-of-town developer is long gone and hard to find.

My own house was built on what my neighbor told us are wetlands – we did not build it and laws have been put in place that help restrict building like this so close to streams and wetlands. But we also have suffered as homeowners who get water in our basement. We did not know anything about such things, having moved from the city first to Franklin and then to Wrentham. But now that we do know, we feel it's important to help prevent building like this in the first place to avoid dangerous damage to foundations and the possibility of mold development in the basements.

Also please consider the impacts (noise, fumes, dust, pollution, damage to infrastructure, traffic disruption, etc.) of 4,250 truckloads of fill. Projects that require that much fill to work are the wrong projects for those sites – period! And that is just one of many possible adverse impacts of these awful projects. The project sites are adjacent to a site on Burnt Swamp Road identified by the Town as the "optimal" location for the much-needed West Wrentham Town Well and are in the aquifer relied upon by the Pawtucket Water Supply Board to supply 130,000 customers in Rhode Island with drinking water.

We have a wonderful and sustainable community in Sheldonville and West Wrentham. Let's protect it and pass it on to future residents who will value it as we do.

Paula and Steve Sullivan
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