

Karon Catrone

From: Kerry Snyder <snyder@neponset.org>
Sent : Monday, July 06, 2020 10:25 AM
To: Karon Catrone
Subject: 42 Mill St. NOI

Good afternoon, Karon,

We've recently been made aware of a proposal to develop the parcel at 42 Mill St. in Westwood. As you know, the parcel includes Mill Brook, a waterway that has been identified as a cold-water fishery by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and is therefore a critical area for preservation. The proposal as written raises several concerns for us:

- The footprint of the proposed project intrudes into the riverfront area, as does the proposed sewer line. It is therefore hard for me to believe that the project can be accomplished without significantly impacting Mill Brook. The addition of impervious surface on this parcel (particularly without appropriate stormwater controls) will add not only polluted runoff to the surrounding resource areas, but also increased temperatures which could critically impact a cold-water fishery.
- The sewer line is proposed to run through a deep marsh to Mill St. This would endanger not only the marsh but also Mill Brook (which runs through it) and is of serious concern to the health of these resource areas.
- While the proposal includes the use of an existing driveway, that driveway lies well within the floodplain, which presents an environmental and public safety hazard. Westwood has been proactive in planning for the impacts of climate change. As you know, climate change is expected to significantly alter precipitation patterns and cause increased flooding events. The fact that the project proposes to use the only elevated portion of the parcel does not eliminate the danger of flood impacts to the resulting development. In fact, we are aware of several high hazard dams in the area which could add to the public safety implications.

In short, this project is problematic in several respects, and the parcel is inappropriate for such development.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,
Kerry

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Pronouns: she/her/hers