

Concerns about Mugar Wetlands development

Cissy Yang <cissyysy@gmail.com>

Sun 3/10/2024 9:08 PM

To: ConComm <ConComm@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To whom it may concern,

Hope this finds you well, we are residents on Dorothy Rd, Arlington and we are writing this email to express deep concerns about the Mugar Wetland development project.

Firstly, the escalating traffic pressure resulting from the project poses a significant safety risk to this neighborhood where a ton of kids reside here. The increased volume of vehicles, both during the project construction and after it fully settles, not only disrupts the tranquility of our neighbourhood but also raises concerns about pedestrian and road safety.

Secondly, this project threatens the delicate ecosystem of Mugar Wetland, leading to adverse consequences. Flooding issue would be the first reason to reject it. Mugar Wetland, as the largest flood-absorbing area in greater Cambridge, Belmont and Arlington region, acts as a natural sponge, absorbing excess rainwater and mitigating the risk of flooding in surrounding areas. Its removal would lead to decreased water absorption capacity, exacerbating the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall events. This not only poses a threat to nearby properties and infrastructure but also endanger lives and disrupts communities. The developer's recent refusal to comply with Conservation Commission's request to install and monitor wells during the spring months raises serious concerns about the accuracy and reliability of the underground water data provided. And their unwillingness to comply with this request, seems as unwilling to provide the essential information, calls into question the transparency and integrity of their development plans. There may be concerns that the data collected during the spring months could have a negative impact on their project plans, such as revealing higher water levels or increased flood risk that could complicated permitting or approval processes. Or they intend to keep certain info or data hidden from regulatory agencies or the public, potentially indicating a lack of transparency or willingness to engage in open dialogue about the project's potential impact.

We can't ignore the impact on water quality, wetlands play a vital role in maintaining water quality by filtering pollutants and sediments from runoff before they reach larger bodies of water. Without the filtration services provided by Mugar Wetland, there would be an increased risk of contamination in local waterways, affecting both human health and ecosystems. Furthermore, wetlands are crucial for climate change resilience, serving as carbon sinks and helping to buffer against the impacts of extreme weather events. Preserving Mugar Wetland is essential for enhancing the region's resilience to climate change by maintaining its capacity to absorb and store carbon.

We sincerely hope you prioritize the preservation of Mugar Wetland and address the aforementioned issues but not limited. It is imperative that sustainable development practices are implemented to safeguard both the environment and the well-being of our community.

Thanks for your time.

Residents on Dorothy Rd, Arlington