



April 1, 2024

To Members of the Conservation Commission:

In response to the hearing on Thursday, March 21st of the proposed Thorndike Place development, we would like to address the following:

In BSC's letter dated February 28th, the table referenced on page 4 states that on February 15, 2024, "BSC performed groundwater measurements of three wells installed on the site". At the last hearing, it was requested of the Applicant to provide a log detailing the name of person(s) conducting the measurements, witnesses, the time and method used.

In order to be accountable for their data, we request that BSC provide this information.

In addition, at the last hearing, during BSC's presentation, Whitestone was mentioned on multiple occasions as the Town's agent who confirmed their test pit findings. According to Whitestone's letter dated June 29, 2023, any groundwater level observations indicating the estimated seasonal high-water table were *only preliminary*, as referenced in the subject line of this letter, ***Preliminary Groundwater Assessment***.

As stated on page 2 of Whitestone's letter, "*Groundwater level observations were recorded during and immediately after the completion of field operations prior to backfilling the test pits. Seasonal variations, temperature effects, man-made effects, and recent rainfall conditions may influence the levels of groundwater, and their observed levels will depend on the permeability of the soils. **Groundwater elevations derived from sources other than seasonally observed groundwater monitor wells may not be representative of true groundwater levels.***"

We ask that Commission take note of Whitestone's recommendation that monitoring wells are needed to establish true groundwater levels.

Thank you on Behalf of the Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands,

Jeanette Cummings, 32 Dorothy Rd.

Julie DiBiase, 29 Littlejohn St.

Cc: James Feeney, Arlington Town Manager
David Morgan, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent
Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent
Arlington Select Board
Arlington Land Trust