

Mugar Wetlands - Thorndike Place

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To: Arlington Conservation Commission

To: whom it may concern..... It should concern everyone!!!

My name is John Yurewicz. I am a long time resident of the neighborhood abutting the Mugar Wetlands site.

As every day goes by we seem to be inching closer to losing something that we will never be able to get back! As I look down Littlejohn Street every day I can see a large, green place that was created by Mother Nature a very long time ago. It's not a perfect place and, for sure, it's not a bad place. The inherent beauty is something that so many people probably take for granted. For me, it's a place that gets more than a passing glance. I walk the neighborhood frequently for my general health and well being. I always look in there to see what I can see. The occasional squirrel or chipmunk, or the many types of birds all doing their thing are welcome sights for me that so, so many people from other areas do not have basically right next door. A couple of weeks ago, one of my neighbors was visited by an eagle swooping right over her back yard. One day, there was an eagle perched on my next door neighbor's roof! Was that big bird from the Mugar wetland? For me, these sights and the host green space are some of the few riches that I have. It would be terrible to see all that get cut down by workers with chain saws and driving bull dozers and dump trucks all in the name of 'development'!

This area of Arlington is pretty well encircled by some form of water body. Spy Pond, Alewife Brook, The Mystic River, and Little Spy Pond surround this end of town. This end of town is, in fact, the lowest land in town. Are we in a watershed? Well, it's not like we have water cascading down Mass. Ave. or Route 2 flooding our streets. However, in heavy rains our streets are flooded! Instead, it's what is happening underground that hides whatever water inflows are invading our neighborhood. Wet basements are commonplace around here. The proposed large, deep excavation filled with a concrete walled subsurface parking garage will be enough of a barrier to all the existing underground aquifers and their flow so that the already shallow ground water will rise inflicting increased damage to those already with wet basements AND further, to those who, up to now, have not had much in the way of water problems. These are expensive problems to solve, all in the name of 'development'!

Fear. Worry. Disturbance. Expense! All are products of the many impacts of this property development. And I haven't even mentioned the miserable noise and congestion associated with the two plus years of demolition of our green space and the raw building and road construction and the ripple effect of the influx of all the workers piling into our neighborhood! Further, the impact of the drawdown of our local utilities such as water and electricity supply and sewage removal thru existing 'sufficient' services can only show to diminish in some level what we have come to get used to in our daily lives. Again, all in the name of 'development'!

Lastly, we who reside in this end of town are experiencing a resurgence of the daily morning and afternoon traffic volumes on Lake Street. Granted, this is probably not a Concomm issue but it sure is a royal pain for this neighborhood's residents when simple rides to and from our homes are greatly slowed by long lines of cars going both directions. It's easy to think of what the addition of a bunch of new residents with their cars driving on our small, neighborhood streets will do to that existing AND growing problem! Sadly, and again, all in the name of 'development'!

For sure, the owners of the Mugar property and all its new residents will be winners if this development is allowed! The many existing residents of the area between Route 2, Kelwyn Manor, Mass. Ave., and the Mugar property will all be forever losers!!

Please 'conserve' and protect the Mugar "WETLAND"! There is way too much at stake for many people in this area.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Yurewicz