



June 3, 2024

To Members of the Conservation Commission:

As addressed previously, BSC's letter dated February 28th stated that on February 15, 2024, "BSC performed groundwater measurements of three wells installed on the site". At an earlier 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, and the resulting measurements. **It is critical that BSC be held accountable for their data, therefore we respectfully request that the Conservation Commission require that BSC provide this information.**

Question: Has the Applicant provided this information? If so, should this not be made publicly available by posting it to the website?

In addition, the Applicant should be **continuously monitoring** any and all wells installed on the property. Continuous monitoring of the wells is vital in order to obtain accurate data over time including the peak rise in groundwater. Monitoring wells at one moment in time, on any given day, could result in inconclusive data and missing the maximum groundwater level. *Since the Applicant installed their well late in the spring season, well after March 1st, they missed the peak seasonal high groundwater level.*

In order to provide thorough data, we ask the Conservation Commission to require the Applicant to monitor all wells through the next spring season.

As referenced in BSC's own report prepared for the Mystic River Watershed Association in 2017 (see attached), their conclusions and recommendations on the protection of wetlands which offer significant benefits are contradictory to their representation of this project which supports development in an environmentally sensitive area.

Likewise, community water supplies and streamflow are less impacted by drought when wetlands in the watershed are protected so that they are able to act as reservoirs for ground and surface water. Because they store water on the landscape, wetlands provide localized cooling, which enhances climate resiliency for neighboring humans, wildlife, crops, and native vegetation. Additionally, healthy ecosystems store carbon, and thus contributing to deceleration of global warming and climate change.¹

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

1. Mystic River Watershed Association
Climate-Resilient Riverbank and Ecological Restoration Planning Project
Medford, Arlington, and Somerville, MA, March 21, 2017 (Page 6)