

From: Darcy Donald <alananddarcy.donald@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 11:45 AM
To: Zba@grotonma.gov
Subject: Comments on Proposed Heritage Landing development

To: The Zoning Board of Appeals
From: Darcy and Alan Donald, Groton Turtle Conservation, Save Nashoba Nashoba Valley Wildlife
Re: Proposed Heritage Landing Development

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our continuing concerns about this development.

Stormwater management: Understanding the developer need only to comply with state regulations, we hope pressure is brought by Groton to mitigate the damage caused by their plan. Not only stormwater runoff, but the inevitable lawn chemicals and anti-mosquito broadcast spray applications to homes there (it will be buggy next to the massive wetland) will degrade the immense and valuable wetland to the south. Wetlands are the most diverse wildlife habitats and the one of the greatest carbon sinks. Water quality in the area will be severely degraded and the nitrogen load from lawn chemicals will destroy the wetland habitat.

Wildlife: This development is a death sentence to the rare species in the area, avian and reptilian. The road traffic, lawn mowing, chemicals, habitat destruction are the culprits, despite any mitigation we attempt. Rare species turtles have been documented for a decade crossing where the development entrance will be and I personally have retrieved multiple dead or fatally injured ones within 10 feet of one another over the last five years, at the site of the development entrance years.

Financial Burden to taxpayers: The developer will walk away with no responsibilities and a huge profit, leaving the taxpayers, schools and town services with enormous burdens. This development will add at least two new classrooms into a system that is already stressed, and a system the town is currently not willing to fund improvements to. Building sidewalks, road maintenance, police and fire protection all add up to strained services and massive costs to the taxpayer and no burden to the developer.

Light Pollution: MIT, Lincoln Labs, and wildlife need dark skies to function. The developer is fighting simple modifications to make this construction comply, saving himself money while the areas suffers from his neglect.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.