



March 20, 2024

To: Nottingham Planning Board

From: Nottingham Conservation Commission

Re: Case # 24-002 SUB, Raymond Road, Tax Map 69, Lots 17 & 19

Dear Members of the Board:

Four (4) Commission members attended the site walk for Case # 24-002 SUB that was held on Saturday March 9, 2024 and all four members reached the summit where the terminus of the cul-de-sac is sited on the plans.

On Monday, March 11, 2024, the Commission met with Scott Cole, Beals Associates, and Brendan Quigley, Gove Environmental Services, Inc. Mr. Cole outlined the Open Space Design (OSD) subdivision as the plans stand at this time: there would be sixteen (16) lots planned of approximately 1.25 acres each. A single road from the entrance on Raymond Road will extend 1700' to the bulb at the terminus. Of the approximately 90 acres, 68 +/- acres would be designated Open Space for the OSD.

With the applicants, Commission members reviewed the anticipated changes in topography, drainage structures, culvert design for protected species and other species of wildlife requiring road crossings, wetland productivity and their classifications as vernal pools or perennial bodies of water, proximity to the aquifer district and Pawtuckaway River, a NH Protected River (4^o Order).

Combined with the boots-on-the-ground experience of the site walk and the review of the plans with the applicants our most important concerns were the alteration of terrain, that the culverts would be more amphibian and turtle friendly, and the proximity to the aquifer district with re: to additional salt use (added to State Highway 156).

At this time the Commission requests that the Board permit us to have additional opportunity to review the reports from NH Fish & Game, The Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC), and the Natural Heritage Bureau, along with



gathering supporting information before sending our recommendations along to the Board. This parcel falls within the Highest Ranked Habitat in the Biological Region, along with containing some of the Highest Ranked Habitat within the State of NH as identified through rigorous inventory and monitoring by NH Fish and Game's Wildlife Action Plan (see attached map for reference). This means this parcel contains increasingly rare habitat for critically endangered species that support NH's biodiversity along with overall environmental and human health.

Beyond the wildlife and high functioning ecosystem contained on the parcel, extreme weather patterns cause drought, flooding, and thus concerns about availability of drinking water along with infrastructure expenses like road and culvert repair during "1,000-year floods" which have occurred several times in the past decade. Recommendations for minimizing these negative impacts and planning for increased extreme weather include maintaining existing wetland matrixes like those found on this parcel. This property is one of a few stellar habitats for a critically endangered species; this request will provide the time and opportunity to contact experts for their input re: their recommendations for these totems of wildlife protection.

The next Commission meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, April 1. Would you please ask Mr. Falzone if he would be available to meet with us at that time?

Following the Commission's April 1 meeting, the Planning Board will receive a follow up letter with recommendations and suggestions from the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please provide a copy of this communication to the applicants.

Respectfully,

Sam Demeritt, Chair



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