

Kelly and Alex Adduci
46 Greenwood St
Sherborn, MA. 01770

January 22, 2024

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL: rick.novak@sherbornma.org

Sherborn Zoning Board of Appeals
19 Washington Street
Sherborn, MA 01770

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL: daryl.beardsley@sherbornma.org

Sherborn Board of Health
19 Washington St
Sherborn, MA. 01770

Dear Sherborn Board of Appeals and Board of Health Members:

We are writing to express serious concerns regarding the proposed development on Greenwood Street and the potential threat to safe drinking water in this area. As you know, Sherborn is unique in that the entire town relies solely on well water and septic systems. Therefore, protecting and ensuring a high quality and sufficient water supply should be of the utmost importance. We applaud the town's commitment to increasing affordable housing, but it should not be at the risk of current or future residents.

The property on Greenwood Street has a history of shallow depth to groundwater as well as abundant wetlands and a significant amount of ledge. We are concerned that because of these conditions, there is considerable potential for septic discharge (nitrogen) into surrounding groundwater. Additionally, any blasting through the existing ledge to drill new wells has the potential to contaminate our groundwater. There have already been instances in town where a resident's well became contaminated with lead and manganese just 8 days after blasting. That poses a serious health threat, especially to the very youngest in our community.

The developer of this project has asked for variances in distances between wells, septic systems, and neighboring wells. **We ask that no variances for well and septic be granted for this project.** The current town regulations were developed to protect our water; therefore we should require that the spacing between wells and septic systems meets all distance requirements. To do otherwise increases health risks for future residents of the project as well as current residents by putting us in danger of septic related contaminants.

We also ask that you **require the ground to be tested again** now that the water levels are closer to historical norms (not a drought). Additionally, we also ask that you **require** that as the wells are drilled, a **real time monitoring system is put in place** to monitor the flow of

water, movement of plumes, and any other impacts on groundwater AND that the developer monitor the water levels in the well as they are installed.

As our neighbors have already indicated, there is precedent for denying a comprehensive permit to protect the health and safety of residents in the “Reynolds v. Stow Zoning Bd. of Appeals” case. Like Sherborn, Stow has a set of local bylaws that are more restrictive than state laws governing septic systems. As noted, the courts found that the Stow project posed a risk to the health and safety of residents.

In the absence of a public water supply, it falls to our local regulatory boards to protect the health and safety of Sherborn residents. The addition of one affordable home does not outweigh the risk to residents’ safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly and Alex Adduci