

Michael and Crista Mahoney
56 Greenwood St
Sherborn, MA 01770

February 13, 2024

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

Dear Sherborn Zoning Board of Appeals,

We are writing with urgent concern regarding the proposed 40B project(s) on Greenwood Street and Washington Street. As abutters of the property, we have grave reservations regarding the potential environmental and groundwater impacts of these developments. It is imperative that we express these concerns forcefully, as they directly affect the well-being of our community.

We, along with our neighbors, rely on private wells for our water supply. Granting variances for these projects without thoroughly considering their broader impact could jeopardize the safety and sustainability of our water sources. While we recognize the importance of increasing affordable housing in Sherborn, it must not come at the expense of our neighbors' health and safety.

We are deeply troubled by the separate consideration of these projects, particularly given the significant waivers applied for by the applicant. The cumulative impact of both projects must be carefully assessed, as highlighted in the Sherborn Groundwater Protection Committee's letter to the Select Board. Ignoring these concerns could result in severe health and safety risks for residents, including excessive nitrogen loading and contamination of private wells.

Recent correspondence from the Board of Health has only amplified our apprehensions. Issues such as inadequate distance between septic systems and wells, inaccurate sizing of leaching fields, and the absence of testing for VOCs in the water supply demand immediate attention. The applicant's dismissal of these concerns is deeply troubling and underscores the need for thorough scrutiny.

We urge the Zoning Board of Appeals to reject any variances that compromise stormwater management, septic design, or groundwater testing. Furthermore, we ask that percolation rates be retested under current conditions and that monitoring wells be drilled for ongoing assessment. Our community's reliance on private wells necessitates unwavering adherence to regulations designed to safeguard our groundwater.

In addition to these specific requests, we implore the Zoning Board of Appeals to prioritize the long-term health and safety of Sherborn's residents. Our unique reliance on private wells defines our community, and protecting this critical resource is paramount to preserving our identity.

Sincerely,

Michael and Crista Mahoney