

September 3, 2024

Michelle and Andrew Lauterback
36 Brush Hill Road
Sherborn, MA

Sent via email: jeanne.guthrie@sherbornma.org

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

Re: Transportation Impact Assessment 34 Brush Hill Rd

Dear Members of the Sherborn Zoning Board of Appeals:

It is our understanding that the main topic at an upcoming ZBA meeting is the Transportation Impact Assessment (TIA) for 34 Brush Hill Road prepared by Vanasse & Associates, Inc., dated August 5, 2024. We are writing to express our concerns with the TIA. It has many deficiencies which need to be addressed to provide an accurate understanding of the traffic impacts to the Brush Hill community.

This TIA is just a paper exercise and doesn't include any data collected from traveling through the area. The following are issues that should be addressed in a revised TIA.

- 1) The TIA incorrectly states the width of Brush Hill Road as ranging from 16' to 20'. In fact, there are many spots where it is less than 16 feet, some areas are 15 feet, and the narrowest is 14 feet, 9 inches. Right where the proposed access driveway from Brush Hill Road leads to the proposed housing development, the width of Brush Hill Road is 15 feet.
- 2) Brush Hill Road has received Massachusetts state designation as a scenic road pursuant to MGL Ch. 40, Section 15C. This designation governs, *inter alia*, the maintenance and removal of trees and stone walls. The entrance to the proposed housing development is very narrow, with large trees and stone walls. There is no mention on how an emergency vehicle could access the site or the impacts of the scenic designation.
- 3) The TIA does not consider the winter months when the snow greatly narrows the road even further, making it even more difficult to travel.
- 4) The TIA does not address the utility pole directly across the driveway and whether it interferes with vehicle access.
- 5) There should be a traffic recorder counting vehicles, including speed, at various times of the day and weekend. The traffic recorder should also count bikes horse traffic, runners, and walkers. It should be noted that Brush Hill Road is part of a very popular bike route and every Saturday morning there are large pelotons of bikers.
- 6) Crash analysis data collected should include data from the last 10 years.
- 7) There needs to be an analysis of the sight distance at the proposed driveway/intersection to Brush Hill Road.
- 8) The TIA should include turning analysis of a fire ladder truck.
- 9) The TIA should include a discussion of snow removal from the driveway.

- 10) The TIA should describe anticipated access for trash removal and anticipated number of delivery trucks.
- 11) The TIA should label the snow storage areas to ensure adequate snow storage on-site and on the extensive driveway.
- 12) It should include motor vehicle collision data at both railroad crossings (Hunting Lane and Prospect Street).
- 13) The TIA fails to note the statistical impacts of adding eight additional homes on Brush Hill Road. This represents a 50% increase in the number of residential units on Brush Hill Road and will therefore have a significant increase in residential traffic.

The addition of eight more homes brings with it an estimated sixteen more automobiles and delivery trucks servicing this housing development. This makes traveling along the narrow Brush Hill Road even more hazardous.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle and Andrew Lauterback