



Board of Health

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Sherborn Zoning Board of Appeals

FROM: Daryl Beardsley (Chair) on behalf of the Sherborn Board of Health

DATE: May 27, 2021

RE: Comments Regarding Water Supply Adequacy Testing for Apple Hill Estates / 31 Hunting Lane and The Pines Residences / 41 North Main Street, Sherborn

This memorandum provides recommendations and comments regarding Sherborn being more proactive to ensure that there is an adequate supply for the proposed projects identified above, without detriment to existing residents who also rely on the same essential and shared groundwater resources. We understand that the project proponent will be going through MassDEP application and review processes for both the water supply and wastewater systems. However:

- the dynamics surrounding water supplies drawn from bedrock are much more difficult to assess than are overburden aquifer wells;
- projects of this scale are more typically connected to municipal systems or in less densely developed areas;
- confirmation of water supply adequacy is in the interest of the future residents of the projects; and
- there are no readily or easily available alternative water supplies that can be relied upon if quantity becomes a problem.¹

¹ As an example of diminishing availability of supply alternatives, water resources are a topic of significant importance and concern to The 495 Partnership, which is a consortium of public and private entities operating in municipalities along the Route 495 corridor. Although historically considered an abundant resource in this area, stresses to this resource are being encountered throughout the region.

The Board of Health has consistently recommended extended pump testing of wells for larger projects. For this Project, a list of comments and recommendations follows:

- Well pump testing must be performed simultaneously for the two wells to meaningfully reflect their yields.
- Due to the scale of this Project and apparent problems (of not accurately predicting pumping impacts) with prior, shorter pump testing on a substantially smaller, non-MassDEP-regulated system, we recommend pump testing of one month.
- Monitoring of existing water supply wells in the vicinity of the project should be implemented on a significant scale, e.g. 25 or more wells for the entire length of the pump testing, using continuous monitoring devices installed in each well.
- Sherborn should actively take stewardship of its water resources because to not do so may compromise the health and well-being of our residents (including the future residents of the Project) and the financial stability of the community.
- The extended water supply testing is technically feasible as well as financially responsible with respect to avoiding future problems.