

16 Magnolia Ave.
Manchester, MA 01944
July 23, 2022

Sarah Mellish, Chair
Manchester Zoning Board of Appeals
Town Hall
Manchester, MA

Dear Chair Mellish and Board of Appeals members:

Having listened carefully to all public hearings re SLV's 40B project, first with the Select Board, and then with the Zoning Board of Appeals, I wish to register my opinion before public input is no longer allowed. I could write pages, but choose to only list the most important reasons I urge your board not to grant a permit for this development. I am aware of, and respect all the restrictions you have, and thank you for all the time you have spent, and will spend, on these deliberations. I will state the objections I have to this building project which I think are entirely valid reasons to reject a permit.

1. The Shingle Place Hill site is entirely inappropriate for a large affordable housing project, which should be close to public transportation, food shopping, etc.
2. There are serious safety concerns, with only one entrance and exit road on a steep grade.
3. The wetland scientist Patrick Garner and the hydrogeologist Scott Horsley, who knows our town's aquifers and water flow better than anyone, are correct in their assessment of the potential alteration to vernal pools that is not allowed.
4. The proposed stormwater management plan is unacceptable. Sawmill Brook, its water quality and quantity, will be forever altered — to the detriment of our drinking water, and our rare brook trout habitat.
5. Now, just as it is known how valuable forests are to our climate, our atmosphere, etc., should we allow so many trees to be cut down?
6. Most emphatically, the outdated 1969 state law which allows 40B developers to bypass critical wetland protections, should be amended in these times when we know such changes to natural systems can not be reversed once the damage is done! There is a bill to that effect which is slowly moving through the Massachusetts legislature now, but will not reach a vote in time to protect our town.

Thank you for considering my letter as you make your deliberations.

Francie Caudill
Retired teacher of earth sciences
Long-time member of the Manchester Stream Team
Former 3-term member of Manchester's Open Space and Recreation Committee
Current member of Manchester's Water Resources Protection Task Force