

From: K Gertsch <kmgertsch@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 11:19 AM

To: Gail Hunter <HunterG@manchester.ma.us>

Cc: Patrice Murphy @ Manchester Essex Conservation Trust <pmurphy@mect.org>

Subject: SLV project proposed for Shingle Place Hill

I am writing to voice my opinion about the SLV application that is before the Manchester Zoning Board of Appeals for Shingle Place Hill. If it is approved, it will commit ecocide!

A sanctuary already exists on upper School Street in the many acres of natural, unspoiled open space. This surrounding area will be forever impacted if SLV's proposal is approved. SLV proposes to create a pseudo-sanctuary on Shingle Place Hill, whereas a real sanctuary already exists. The miles of woodland trails are already there for all people to enjoy, renew their spirit, and to commune with nature. Right now there is no out-of-place visual impact to destroy this natural sanctuary.

The construction of SLV's housing project on Shingle Place Hill will commit Ecocide! The actions from this project will destroy the natural environment that now exists—by deliberate and negligent human activity! And, the destruction of Shingle Place Hill will impact not only that site—those twenty-some steep acres—it will forever alter the vistas that surround Shingle Place Hill.

The applicant is asking if he can demolish an existing natural environment that will actually impact a far greater area. His activity will impact far more than those acres. The SLV project will impact every passerby along upper School Street with its un-natural—HUGE—man-made footprint. It is a proposal that will never fit into these surroundings. This applicant is asking for myriad variances from the Manchester Conservation Commission and many waivers from the Zoning Board of Appeals. If this project fit this site, these variances and waivers would not be necessary!

Is common sense dead? This proposed housing project mirrors countless others already visible along Route 95 and in the midst of larger communities; miles of commercial development and apartment complexes already exist in these built-up heavy traffic areas. There must be other appropriate sites to build the SLV 130+ housing units. The Shingle Place Hill housing project proposed by SLV is out of place in our small community, and especially on a steep hill surrounded by a beautiful, unspoiled, natural environment.

I urge you to please deny this project! Our town is working hard to find appropriate solutions to providing affordable housing in areas already developed, where there is room to add on to existing housing. With all the information we have available to us today about climate change and the need to protect natural places to balance out the developed areas on our planet, willfully destroying natural habitats, such as Shingle Place Hill, should never be an option! If this project is approved, the board members who voted for it will forever be responsible for this destruction. Just say NO!

Karin (Hurley) Gertsch, Trustee

Helena Hurley Real Estate Trust, Shingle Place Hill

Resident of Essex, MA