

RE: Shingle Hill proposed SLV Project

July 26, 2022

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Select Board:

As longtime residents of Manchester we submit this letter to state our strong opposition to the proposed Shingle Hill Project by Strategic Land Ventures. We respect your hard work and the difficulty of making such a long-lasting and environmentally sensitive decision on behalf of the town. The environmental issues of this project are complex and destructive as noted by the review panels. In addition, the proposed project does not fit within the State's criteria or intent of 40B, "that of developing low income or affordable housing that is integrated into the surrounding residential area." There are no other residential developments even close to the site or the size of the proposed project. Clearly, the environmental concerns, size and location of this project is not in the best interest of Manchester's future.

The number of environmental waivers requested are in violation of Manchester's existing By-Laws and are detrimental to the surrounding wetlands, the impact on the vernal pools, and the Saw Mill Brook water supply. These should be reasons alone to deny the comprehensive permit. Not to mention the impact on the amount of blasting that will be necessary on the site for this project.

Additionally, 136 units on the proposed site present numerous concerns and conditions to be met that will challenge the Department of Public Works, Fire and Police: town resources, safety, emergency access, egresses, pedestrian safety and increased traffic on an already congested School Street. These are more reasons that this project is not viable.

Truly affordable housing is a clear need for Manchester and acknowledged by the citizens of the town. There are plans in progress to address this concern. It is important that this housing issue be addressed in a more thoughtful manner to preserve the resources and natural landscape of what makes Manchester so special. It is imperative that the waivers requested and the comprehensive permit be denied.

Thank you for your service to the town and respect for what the citizens of Manchester have requested through petition and involvement throughout the process.

Sincerely,  
Karen Wilk and Gregory Snyder  
50 Norwood Avenue