

From: Ruth Pereen <ruthpereen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 7:04 PM
To: Sarah Mellish <ZBAChairperson@manchester.ma.us>
Subject: Shingle Hill Place

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Dear Board Chair Mellish and members of the ZBA,

I am writing to you as a long-time resident of Essex, where I serve as Chair of the Select Board, as well as on other town boards and committees. I have raised my children in this town and have spent many hours exploring and appreciating the Wilderness Conservation Area with my family. As you know, this conservation area straddles the two towns and is a vital part of our collective community. The health of the brook and wetlands as well as the visual impacts of the building throughout the conservation area will be as important to Essex as it is to Manchester-by-the-Sea.

I have been following your meetings with great concern, this Shingle Place Hill 40B Development would have serious impacts on our greater community. Not only would the building loom over Essex residents as they head to the highway entrance, shared school, or center of town, the truck traffic would also will present serious safety issues as it removes blasted materials, removes 7 acres of trees, delivers concrete, transports lumber, delivers window and plumbing supplies, and arrives laden with top soil and other fill. It will be especially hazardous as I understand there will also be ongoing road construction on School Street for water and sewer mains.

Is there a plan for all of these trucking needs during the construction phase? Will trucks be traveling over our roads in Essex, where we have a truck prohibition at the newly installed temporary causeway bridge? This is unacceptable to Essex.

Undoubtedly our school system, which is shared with Manchester, will be impacted by sudden growth and with it concerns for the water quality brought to the school system.

Essex faces many of the same problems as Manchester; like you we are a seaside community with a need for affordable housing and commercial development taking center stage. This is an opportunity to really demonstrate what the town values and shape its future. Our forests are vital as we look to a future where temperatures rise and air and water quality falls; undeveloped forest is a major asset when people look

for relief from the heat and provides natural filtration that is more efficient than anything we could build. This project does not fit the community, nor does it protect the true affordable housing interests of the community. As a select board member I appreciate your hard work and dedicated service, and I know your position is very difficult. I urge you to deny the application for a comprehensive permit.

Sincerely,

Ruth Pereen