

4/21/21

TO: The Middle Haddam Historic District Commission

RE: Opposition to Application 546

A development consisting of eight houses back to back on 18 acres with 7 driveways exiting on a town road is not necessarily unusual for the town of East Hampton, but this application is significant in that the parcel is located within the Middle Haddam Historic District on a fragile parcel of land. Long Hill Estates LLC is therefore not only historically inappropriate to the area, but environmentally inappropriate, as well.

First, the acreage produces extensive-water run-off from the hillside onto and under Long Hill Road. In the winter, this creates hazardous ice formations. Public works is quite familiar with this problem and as a resident adjacent to this property for 50 years I am a credible witness to this hazardous situation. Also, many years ago when Charles and Mary Drive was created on the hill above us we experienced a significant drop in our well's recovery rate of water. Now with the proposed addition of eight houses above us it is very likely that the drilling of 8 wells could further impact our water supply.

The planning and zoning manual clearly states that if a project elicits a significant outcry re environmental issues etc. the public has a right to demand an impact study, which amounts to an in depth exploration as to the potential and the limitations for this project. We have requested several studies to examine wetlands, traffic, run-off, etc. but there has been no answer from the building department. The rapid movement of this project without a complete study into its environmental effects is unsatisfactory to us as taxpayers.

From a historical point of view, the house design proposed for this project is a generic semi-plastic version of a colonial completely devoid of any embellishments. I cannot imagine 7 more similar examples with 7 driveways exiting onto Long Hill Road. This plan would be far from appropriate in any Historic District. The commission's mission is to insure that any exterior features will be complimentary to the rich historic architecture in the village. This design is totally incompatible with the existing historic structures that contribute to the District and should be denied by the Historic District Commission.

Regarding the density of the proposal, the town's Plan of Conservation and Development mandates that this Middle Haddam parcel is scheduled for "light density." 8 houses with 7 driveways is not appropriate and should not be granted a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. McCutcheon
Middle Haddam