

To: Members of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Authority

Correspondence for the 28 April 2021 regular meeting of the IWWA – Opposition to Application #IW-21-008

53 Long Hill Road is a highly sensitive property on myriad levels.

It is historically important being located within the Middle Haddam Historic District, parts of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It sits adjacent to the former Hebron-Middle Haddam Turnpike, established in 1803, now the narrow rural Long Hill Road. This wooded property serves to buffer the district from the noisy and busy Route 66, serving as a scenic gateway to the village of Middle Haddam.

In addition, this +/-18 acres is environmentally important and protecting the site's natural resources must be adequately addressed. The narrative presented to the Inland Wetlands and Waterways Authority referenced a small intermittent watercourse that originates from the Charles Mary storm water detention system. Having lived adjacent to this property for most of my life I would argue that this determination is incorrect and that the environmental disturbance has been grossly understated to IWWA.

The stream running through the property is both perennial and significant. While storm water may feed into it, the stream is primarily fed by a spring and that spring flows year round. My parents used to fill our pool with the water that flows from the stream down Long Hill, in front of our house (#51).

A culvert under Long Hill Road to accommodate the watercourse has been there for at least 70 years (probably since the road was created in 1803 as the Hebron-Middle Haddam Turnpike) to allow the watercourse to pass. It was NOT constructed as a result of any water discharged from Charles Mary, thus proving the existence of the stream prior to the installation of this development. The stream is naturally occurring, has always been there, is accommodated by the bridge/culvert and is significant.

In addition, there is an underground spring on the property that was not mentioned in soil scientist James Sipperly's report. Until relatively recently this spring served as a public water source where people would collect drinking water in great volumes, from a cistern that is still brimming with water.

While Sipperly reports that there is "no wetland disturbance proposed with the application" I believe the disturbance for 8 building lots in and around a wetland, with 7 paved driveways, will have a negative impact on this environmentally sensitive parcel and must be mitigated. The stream, spring and historic cistern that was utilized by the public for so many years should be noted and measures taken to protect them.

In addition, my parent's well at 51 Long Hill Road has been severely impacted by the Charles Mary development above them. An additional eight houses next door with a septic system on the first lot that appears from the elevation map to be above their well, causes great concern.

The community feels strongly that additional impact studies are in order, including:

- 1) A study that will determine the impact of surface water drainage down seven paved driveways onto Long Hill Road.

2) A study of the water supply to determine the impact of an additional eight households on area wells.

3) A study of the environmental effects of installing eight distinct septic systems on the site.

We have 300 signatures to a growing petition opposing the application on the basis that it does not conform to East Hampton's Plan of Conservation and Development's commitment to preserve and protect natural and historic resources. We therefore urge you to undertake the additional research requested and conduct a site visit prior to entertaining application #IW-21-008.

If you would like a guided tour of the site and the wetlands, watercourses and spring, neighbors would be happy to conduct you, with permission of the owner.

Thank you for considering my concerns –

Dr. Margaret McCutcheon Faber
Middle Haddam

Attached: Photographs of the wetlands, stream, spring and cistern on the 53 Long Hill Property



04/06/2021



07/06/2021



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