

John and Melissa Clement
17 River Road
Allenstown, NH 03275

July 12, 2020

Wetlands Bureau, Land Resources
Management Water Division
Department of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302

RE: Wetlands Permit Application NHDES File Number 2020-01568
Subject Property: 15 Pinewood Road, Allenstown, Tax Map #109, Lot #17

To Whom It May Concern:

As an abutter of the above property, we'd like to express our concerns as to how this project could impact our property. The property is currently vacant and has never had a structure on it. The water in the pond/wetland on the northeast of the property flows through a spring brook on our property, through a culvert under River Road and Route 28, and eventually ends at the Suncook River. The large building proposed, along with all the surface area that will become parking, sidewalks, and such, takes away from the property's ability to naturally absorb water over its full acreage. The plans provided show man-made wet ponds that will take the stormwater from the building and paved surfaces, filter it, and then it appears to direct the water into that pond/wetland on the northeast side of the property, which ultimately will come through our yard. These plans also show emergency spillways in the wet ponds.

The pond/wetland did hold more water at one time. Sometime after 2004, large granite pieces that were in place between the pond/wetland and the railroad bed were moved, which allowed more water flow and diminished the amount of water held in the pond. Beavers were in the pond/wetland until the change above occurred, and the pond then changed to be more wetland, holding less water and increasing the amount of grasses growing in the water. The water flowing in our yard increased, eroding our property along the banking of the brook. See attached images of an arial view of the pond/wetland taken in August 2004, the brook on our property in June 2004, and the brook in May 2019 (the image with the dog). Also included are two images of flooding, the first from September 2008 and the second from October 2017.

If our assessment of the plans is accurate, we request:

- an explanation as to what impacts we can expect, given the rainfall of the area and previous flooding that occurred on our property due to insufficient outlets between our property and the Suncook River (also take into consideration that the stormwater

basins on River Road drain into the catch basin between River Road and Route 28, as does the brook on our property);

- an explanation as to how the emergency spillways function and what we can expect when those spillways are in use;
- assurance that our property will not be adversely affected by the plan for this property; and
- an explanation as to what recourse we may have in the future if adverse impacts to our property occur.

In addition, although not under consideration for this permit, there are plans for further development along Granite Street in Allentown, which will increase the amount of water coming into the pond/wetland as it flows downstream and into the Suncook River. Over the past several years projects on Chester Turnpike and Granite Street have increased the amount of water being directed to this wetland/pond, and we are very concerned about the cumulative impact all this development will have and want to be sure it is properly addressed.

We appreciate your time reviewing and addressing our concerns. If any or all of our concerns need to be addressed elsewhere, we appreciate any guidance you can provide.

Sincerely,

John and Melissa Clement

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