



Public Comment Form:

Town of Grafton MA <vtstdmailer@vt-s.net>
To: planningdept@graffton-ma.gov

Thu, Jul 14, 2016 at 6:51 PM

Submitted on Thursday, July 14, 2016 - 6:51pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 108.16.146.30
Submitted values are:

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**PLANNING BOARD
GRAFTON, MA**

Choose a Project: Elmrock Estates (Fieldstone Farms) - Wheeler Road - North Grafton - 36 Single Family Houses - Potential 40B Project

First Name: Justin

Last Name: Dion

Email Address: dion.justinrichard@gmail.com

Street Address: 196 Brigham Hill Rd

City: North Grafton

State: Massachusetts

Public Comment Disclaimer: I have read and understand the Public Comment Disclaimer.

Comments:

Board members,

As a resident of North Grafton and the Brigham Hill area I oppose this project. I have a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology with a concentration in wildlife sciences and management and I am currently pursuing my M.S. in Wildlife Ecology. The Elmrock Estate project stands to harm the ecological landscape in our town. This development will fragment the landscape, severing a large portion of contiguous forest habitat. Large patches of forest have high ecological value to many local plant and animals. By breaking up these large patches we shrink the size of the interior habitat of each patch. Many ecological studies have shown that this process reduces biodiversity and abundance of plants and animals. Urban sprawl is destroying our natural areas. This destruction does not happen all at once, it creeps along one seemingly "small" development project at a time until we wake up one day and our natural landscape is all but gone.

On a personal note, I grew up on this hill. Spending time in the surrounding woods as a child and now as an adult. I place a high value on the wild, open areas of this town, as should anyone who enjoys being outdoors or seeing the abundance of wildlife this town has to offer. Grafton has the small town aesthetic that draws people to live here. Part of that aesthetic is the forested landscape and scenic areas. With every development project that is allowed to take place, we lose a piece of that aesthetic and we lose a little of what makes Grafton such a great place to live. We as a town need to place higher value on our open areas and oppose projects like these that threaten to fragment the natural landscape.

I urge the members of the board to consider the impact of this development and to deny approval for the Elmrock Estate project.

Thank you for your time,
Justin R. Dion

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<http://www.graffton-ma.gov/node/86623/submission/1013>