

JUL 18 2016

Opposition to Bull Meadow Development Permit Approval

Dear Planning Board and others,

**PLANNING BOARD
GRAFTON, MA**

It is our understanding that a developer (Bull Meadow, LLC) is requesting approval from the Commission to build a 15 house subdivision within the Wetlands and Designated Endangered Species and Wildlife area off Appaloosa Drive in Grafton. We have included an attached yellow overlay of the development and State designated Endangered Species and Wildlife areas.

We strongly object to the approval of this development for the following reasons:

- This Wildlife area occupies almost 20% of the Designated Endangered Species and Wildlife area within the Town of Grafton. There are also two Potential Vernal Pools in the areas that the developer wants to build a road and bridge paving over those designated vernal pool areas.
- The previous Conservation Agent, Linda Dietloff, when questioned about this very issue had said they would not be able to add on to Appaloosa because of the wetlands and vernal pools.

This development would result in the total destruction of a large and valuable Endangered Wildlife area within our town, and we do not support permitting of this development to proceed. Likewise, we find it hard to believe that the Grafton Conservation Agents and Conservation Commission would allow this to move forward given the significant consequences to our town.

According to the Commissioner of the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and the Natural Heritage Foundation, it is up to the Town of Grafton to inspect this area during the vernal pool season (February to May) to make a determination of not only the salamander population, but of all the rare and endangered plant, wildlife and reptile species within these wetlands and adjacent areas clearly marked on the attached map of their Locus Plan. They also agreed it is up to the Town of Grafton to disapprove this project.

The local politicians, and those from neighboring Shrewsbury, such as EEA Secretary Matthew Beaton, that are supposed to be in charge of the Environmental Affairs, we hope will be as concerned as are all the Grafton residents of North Grafton Estates, Adams Road and surrounding areas.

Also, the Baker-Polito administration had run their campaign on a Conservation and Energy platform and we would hope their assistance could help prevent this development from going forward as planned within this endangered and environmentally sensitive area.

A number of other environmental issues plague this proposed development such as storm water and flooding since this proposed development is located at the bottom of a hundred foot slope that has been prone to flooding above that area. (videos given to Planning Board)

The wells and water table is very low, requiring Adams Road residents to frack their wells. (as discussed at the Planning Board meetings in 2014). Please consider these many issues while trying to protect our environment and wildlife, and do not approve a permit for this development.

Respectfully,
 Jennifer and Joe Wiza
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 North Grafton, MA
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