

October 12, 2015  
To the Planning Board

The Conservation Commission supports the plan to install a permeable reactive barrier to a septic system located on Griffith Drive. It would meet the requirements for a Conditional Use Permit.

Our rationale is:

1. We view the installation as a conservation activity, a permitted use (175-60A3).

The purpose of the installation, the reduction of nitrogen flowing into the creek, and then the Oyster River and Great Bay, follows the intention of the first article (175-58A) of the purpose of the Wetland Overlay District: "Protect the water quality of wetlands by appropriately managing stormwater runoff, siltation and sedimentation, and the construction or alteration of allowed or pre-existing buildings and structures."

2. The project is intended to "protect wildlife and fisheries habitat and wetlands vegetation" (175-58E) by reducing nitrogen runoff.

3. The design of the project is straightforward and after the initial construction, the site will be restored to a natural condition on the surface.

4. The project is an innovative attempt to improve an existing septic system and its impacts on the adjacent wetlands using best available technology.

Overall, we strongly support this project and its aim to reduce the nitrogen impact of septic systems. We believe that the short-term impact created by construction will be offset by the long-term operation of the system.

Again, we strongly support this project.

Ann Welsh, Chair  
Durham Conservation Commission