

Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2020 10:02 AM

To: Michael Behrendt

Subject: Re: Mulhern subdivision - Question regarding wetlands

I would think the Planning Board would want an independent and demonstrably objective review before any decision-making. I would also think the Planning Board, as well as the Town of Durham more generally, would want a clear understanding of broader downstream effects, both those in Durham and those in a neighboring town. If I were on the Planning Board, I would not want to cast a vote on this issue without having such objective and such complete information. Climate change, the knowledge of increased precipitation, the removal of all those trees currently absorbing water, the creation of all that hard service with its increased run-off (from both the roads and the housing), and the flooding that will likely result both in the immediate vicinity and farther afield downstream in the watershed, are all too big a matter to ignore, or to trust to non-objective even if qualified sources.

From: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 9:13 AM

To: Carroll, John <John.Carroll@unh.edu>

Subject: Mulhern subdivision - Question regarding wetlands

1

Hi John (cc to Planning Board),

The topographic and wetland information for the subdivision was provided by Michael Mariano of Highland Soil Services. He is a certified wetlands and soils scientist. The Planning Board can require any independent review it deems appropriate, with the applicant paying for that review, but it must have a clear reason for doing so. If you or other neighbors believe that an independent review should be conducted I would recommend that you be very specific about which aspect(s) of the application you think need(s) to be reviewed and give the reasons you think it is needed.

I have heard the most concerns about wetlands and drainage within the Town's right of way at the end of Gerrish Drive. Once Mike Sievert has a specific design for the road there that design and the drainage plan will be reviewed by NHDES and by April Talon, Durham Town Engineer. You could request an additional review of that plan if you wished or of the impacts of the larger drainage plan on areas downstream (north and east of the site). I believe Mike Sievert's drainage plan will include the areas downstream.

Michael Behrendt

Durham Town Planner

Town of Durham

8 Newmarket Road

Durham, NH 03824

(603) 868-8064

From: Carroll, John [mailto:John.Carroll@unh.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Michael Behrendt
Subject: Re: Mulhern subdivision - Question regarding wetlands

Hi Michael,

I have no reason to doubt Michael Sievert's capabilities as an engineer, particularly in this area, given his considerable experience. And I have no particular reason to have any doubts about Mr. Mariano's capability, given his certifications, as relayed by Mr. Sievert. My point is that this arrangement cannot be objective, given that Mike Sievert makes his living from this contract and therefore is, by definition, a subjective party, not an objective party. The town needs to make its own choice separately, whether that be Ellen Snyder's suggestions, Rob Sullivan's suggestions, or the suggestions of someone else selected by the town who is independent of the project and will have nothing to gain from it.

2

Further, the bigger picture is important. Downstream, both Madbury (Gerrish Brook, Rte. 108 and Upper Johnson Creek) and a separate area of Durham (Lower Johnson Creek) are affected by the run-off and should be included in any study.

John

From: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 3:00 PM
Subject: Mulhern subdivision - Question regarding wetlands

To the Planning Board (and neighbors),
Please see the question below from John and Diana Carroll and the response from Mike Sievert, design engineer for the project.

Michael Behrendt
Durham Town Planner
Town of Durham
8 Newmarket Road

From: Mike Sievert [mailto:mikesievert@mjs-engineering.com]

Sent: Monday, February 03, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Michael Behrendt; Marti MULHERN; Mike Mulhern

Subject: RE: Mulhern subdivision - Question from Carrolls regarding wetlands scientist

Hi Michael,

My answer to the Carroll's questions are as follows;

- Michael Mariano with highland Soils in Somersworth is being hired. He is a certified wetland and soils scientist with the state of NH and ME
- His scope of work will be to delineate and classify the wetlands which is all that is required by the Town and State regulations.
- In addition on behalf of the Mulhern's, I have asked him to complete a functions and values analysis on the existing wetlands. This is over and above what is required but we have decided that this will be a benefit for permitting and we are proceeding in with that.

3

As for the other questions about the impacts to Madbury and Durham, that is not part of the wetland scientist scope at this point because it also depends on the design. We will be getting into the impacts with the drainage analysis and design for the subdivision and that will be addressed then.

Mike

From: Carroll, John [mailto:John.Carroll@unh.edu]

Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2020 10:16 AM

To: Michael Behrendt

Subject: Wetlands scientist

Hi Michael,

Who is being hired as wetland scientist on the Gerrish Extension project? What is the scope of his or her work?? Is it only delineation of wetland or does it include how these wetlands function, the impact of development on the functioning of those wetlands, the impact in on the wetlands in Madbury and on Durham,s own Johnson Creek?

John and Diana