

From: Walter Rous [<mailto:walterrous@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:11 PM

To: Michael Behrendt

Subject: Gerrish Drive project

Hi Michael,

Here are my thoughts about the proposed development, after having walked the site once in the rain and again on the official sitewalk, and having studied all the preliminary documents.

I have three areas of concern, in descending order of importance.

*Wetland impact in the town right of way:

In addition to existing runoff from the Gerrish Drive neighborhood, there will be added runoff from the roadway all the way up to the stone wall. I don't doubt that the proposed swale and culvert can be designed to handle extreme

water flows efficiently. What is not clear is whether an artificially vegetated swale roughly one quarter the size of the original treed wetland can provide the equivalent retention and treatment of this "degraded" water. Looking at

the cross sections, I can see that the wetland area to the south of the very deep swale, outside of the right-of-way, will be drained most of the time, changing its vegetation. Should that area

not be included in the calculation of impacted wetland? Presumably this area will continue to act as an overflow buffer in extreme events.

Would a much narrower, private road reduce the problem a bit? Adams Point Road, for example is 12'-6" wide and runs for about one mile. It serves boat trailers, fire trucks, dumpster pickups, etc.

*Wetland impact on the parcel at the second crossing:

It ought to be possible to cross this area without affecting water flows and wildlife pathways. Given the steep terrain on either side, it seems obvious that the higher the roadway and the wider the "bridge", the less impact there will

be. There needs to be a willingness to bear the extra expense of an elevated roadway.

*The wetland "finger" at the center of the development is probably the least valuable wetland, but the filling of which is also the least defensible in terms of it's importance to the project. Eliminating the last house, and moving the

second-to-last house to the northwest, and using the existing finger as a more natural retention/treatment element in the runoff design would be a big improvement.

These are my thoughts, but in all three cases I'm feeling the need for an expert. Shouldn't the town engage one? This is a major project. In addition, there was some discussion of extending the sewer system through the Gerrish Drive neighborhood. Might this offset some of the impact? Are offsets allowable? Again, I'm feeling the need for expertise.

Walter Rous