

From: [Carroll, John](#)
To: [Karen Edwards](#)
Subject: Response to the Conservation Commission on Doing "Due Diligence"
Date: Friday, February 12, 2021 12:16:52 PM

Dear Conservation Commission Members,

I watched and listened carefully to the Commission's discussion/deliberation on the Gerrish wetlands issue last night. I want to thank the Commission members for their work and for their almost painful consideration of this subject. Some of you I know well, and I know the objective thinking in which you engage and your grappling with serious issues certainly shows your dedication to public service. Commissioner Kritzer's question to Project Engineer Sievert was the right question to ask, and it received a detailed answer. But Project Engineer Sievert cannot be fully objective in any sense. Nor can Project Wetlands Scientist Mark West. They are both on the applicant's payroll and therefore cannot be fully objective. It appears you are putting too much trust in them.

For example, Engineer Sievert's answer contradicts our own Town Attorney who says the Bagdad Entrance is legal for Project Engineer Sievert to use as an access to the project. You should follow our Town Attorney on this matter. Concerning the Bagdad Entrance/Access, you have not yet experienced a Site Walk starting at the Bagdad Entrance. And you have seen no study of the wetland impacts of using that access. Those impacts are minimal in their effect on functioning wetlands and mainly impact the wetland buffer and not the functioning wetland itself. If you had investigated that entrance, you would realize that, while there is some impact from the crossing of wetland buffers, there is significantly less impact to functioning wetlands by using this access. You should recommend an independent wetland scientist to verify this.

Until you seriously investigate the Bagdad Entrance, which is the same piece of Mulhern property that the proposed circular housing development is on, and until you engage independent hydrological and ecological scientists to study and assess the Bagdad Entrance as it might compare to the Gerrish Access, you are not doing "due diligence". These things must be done before you make any decisions or recommendations leading to destruction of the town owned Gerrish Wetlands. In doing these things, and getting this kind of information independently, you would not have to make such a labored decision - your path would be obvious.

Again, thank you for your work.

Best.

John E. Carroll