

**From:** [Carroll, John](#)  
**To:** [Karen Edwards](#)  
**Subject:** Our PW Director and Town Engineer on the "Gerrish Access":  
**Date:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 4:17:24 PM

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Dear Members of the Planning Board,

At the May 12th meeting of the Planning Board our Director of Public Works, and his co-signer, our Town Engineer, informed both the Planning Board and the people of Durham as to how expensive it would be to maintain, repair, and eventually to replace, the proposed Gerrish Access road, if it is ever built. And for reasons of such great expense, the Town of Durham would, he said, not accept such complicated infrastructure as a town road. The applicant's engineer, Mr. Sievert, praised this report from our Town Public Works Director and our Town Engineer, largely agreeing with its substance. We can assume, therefore, that the applicant accepts the great cost and will pass that cost on to the 15 homeowners in the proposed development, a cost that would likely be a substantial, and even perhaps an impossible, financial burden for them.

What we learn from all this back and forth on road ownership is the true expense of defying Mother Nature when substantial spring-fed water flowage over steep terrain, combined with the elimination of natural water storage in the wetlands, is the result. All of this is compounded by the real-world results of climate change. Any Planning Board decision to approve the proposed Gerrish Access to this property will ultimately cost Durham and her residents a great deal of money, the spending of which is likely avoidable simply by using the Bagdad Access. It is time to take the Bagdad Access seriously. Our Public Works Director and our Town Engineer, independent-minded professionals, are not likely to be wrong in their estimate of the ultimate cost of working against nature and pushing through a Gerrish Access.

Sincerely,

John

E. Carroll

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Canney Road