

To Members of the Arlington Zoning Board of Appeals

Please accept the following comments concerning the proposed Mugar development from an almost 20 year Arlington resident and abutter to the Mugar property.

A variety of factors have been identified as negative impacts of the development on the neighborhood and town. They include increased flooding, excessive traffic, environmental disruption, school overcrowding, loss of open space, restrictions on the use of Thorndike field for town sports, increased town service costs, and surrounding home damage during construction. All valid and legitimate concerns expressed by a wide range of town officials, organizations, surrounding communities, and residents. The developer and Mugar's have dismissed these concerns under the pretense of providing a necessary affordable housing solution with environmentally-friendly commuting options. It is obvious from their presentations and responses that ego and greed are their primary motivators. Perhaps the developer expects that as a Burch Street abutter, I would be pleased with and impressed by the modified plan. Not so – I am more opposed now than previously when I would have been looking at a parking lot and large building.

Some things I envision the neighborhood will be like if the development exists:

- Building size overwhelming Dorothy Road and the surrounding woods. Instead of a parking lot, we are looking at a mega structure compared to the homes
- Repairing cracks and repainting walls after construction
- No longer hearing my neighbor's kids and friends playing basketball on Dorothy Road
- No street hockey, skateboarding, pickleball, playing catch, walking with children/friends/dog on Dorothy Rd, Littlejohn St, Wilson Ave, Homestead Rd, Mott St, Mary St, Parker St, Burch Street, Margaret St, White St, Osborne Rd, Edith St
- Footpaths cut across Thorndike field to the development
- Visitors unable to park in front of my house or close by
- Garbage trucks unable to turn onto streets; instead drive backwards on narrowed street
- Unable to drive down Dorothy Road because only one lane available due to cars parked on one side
- Post-game backups from Thorndike Field to all streets leading to Lake St
- At least five traffic lights from Rte 2 to Mass Ave
- Waiting 10 minutes to turn westward onto Lake Street after trying to avoid getting hit by Dorothy Road and Mary Street cross traffic
- Trying to find an alternate route from the west to home. Pleasant Street backed up onto Rte 2 bypass and to Mass Ave; Park Street backed up from Rte 2 exit to Mass Ave; side streets leading to Mass Ave backed up
- Slowdowns on flooded Rte 2 before exiting onto Lake Street or heading east to Fresh Pond
- Continuing to be concerned about falling trees/limbs when high winds are forecast and piles of debris polluting the wetlands
- No more rabbits, turkeys, hawks, birds – no place for them to nest and forage

There are several remaining questions about the developer's proposal. The town and others committed opposition and diligence with following procedures is appreciated and commendable. Allowing the Mugar's to build the development would result in long term damage to not only East Arlington but all of Arlington and surrounding neighborhoods. It's time to demand clear answers, use all legal means possible to stop the development, and create the open space we all need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pama Miller

43 Burch St

Stay safe, healthy, and positive



