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To: zba@town.arlington.ma.us, cklein@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 09:37:44 -0400
Subject: Mugar Wetlands and Arlington Soccer Club Concerns

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Dear Mr. Klein and the Zoning Board of Appeals-

My name is Henry Brush and I am the Field Director and Immediate Past President of the Arlington Soccer Club. I have served on the ASC Board in a variety of roles for the past 19 years. I reside at 12 Draper Ave. in Arlington.

The Arlington Soccer Club is very concerned about the impact of the Mugar development project on neighboring athletic fields. As you know, the floodplains of the proposed development act as a sponge for nearby groundwater and storm water. If this "sponge" is paved over, the floodplain will no longer serve its essential purpose, and the water will flood into east Arlington neighborhoods. This will have a significant impact on the area, including the Thorndike and Magnolia field complex that ASC uses heavily.

I am very concerned about the impact of this development project on the surrounding neighborhoods, including Thorndike and Magnolia fields. As a field checker for ASC, I have walked Thorndike and Magnolia fields for the past 15+ years after rains to determine if the field is playable, and am very familiar with the current flooding challenges there. I am very concerned that the proposed development project would significantly impact both the quality and usability of Thorndike and Magnolia fields. Thorndike field in particular has a tendency to flood after rain storms in the back corner close to Route 2 and adjacent to the Mugar property, rendering the field unplayable for athletic use. The Arlington Soccer Club supports 1,800+ youth players and the Thorndike and Magnolia field complex represent a significant portion of our field space. On a typical weeknight, we have 100+ youth soccer players practicing at Thorndike and Magnolia, and on a typical weekend we have 20 games there. Losing time on those fields to flooding issues would significantly impact our available field space for the soccer club. Arlington already faces severe athletic field space challenges for youth and adult athletics, and the loss of playing time on Thorndike and Magnolia fields would only make the situation worse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Henry Brush

Henry Brush
Field Director and Immediate Past President, ASC
12 Draper Ave.
Arlington