

July 11, 2021

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

On July 9, after the rain stopped, we went for a walk in nearby Acorn Park. The Little River was level with the land and overflowing in places. The pond in the park was higher than we had ever seen it, coming close to the top edges. All around, inches-deep puddles of water sat on top of the saturated ground.

We walked home along the wooden boardwalk near the dog park and Route 2, and noted the similarly high levels of water next to the boardwalk.

When we got home, we read the email from the Town alerting us to sewer backups in East Arlington as a result of the storm.

These events are reminders that we need to take flooding seriously when considering applications to build in wetlands or areas adjacent to wetlands. Last month was the hottest June on record. The climate is changing. If FEMA redrew its flood maps tomorrow, how would the proposed development site fare?

Please consider this along with our previously submitted testimony opposing the Thorndike Place proposal as you continue the hearing process.

Sincerely,

Rachel Roth
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