From: jspikey@comcast.net
To: ConComm; Jeanette Cummings; jada86@aol.com
Subject: LAST CHANCE To Save The Mugar Wetlands
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 10:11:32 AM

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To: Town of Arlington
Conservation Commission,
My name is John Yurewicz. I am a 57 year resident of the town, 42 of which at the corner of Mott and Littlejohn Streets, about 75 yards away from the site of the proposed Thorndike Place.
Since 1975, almost FIFTY years, neighbors, abuttors, family and friends, and townsfolk from all over Arlington have successfully opposed and fought the various proposed developments to this last of its kind WETLAND / Greenspace now called the Mugar Wetland. For almost FIFTY years, plans for development have risen and fallen because of the location of these lands and the serious opposition to those developments. It was AND STILL is a wetland. Nothing has changed in fifty years except that the property is much more lush and green, a natural stand against the damage done by our own dangerous emissions! Yet, here we are, voicing strong opposition to yet another large proposed development!
The meetings and gatherings at Town Hall over the years to demonstrate our opposition were very vocal, visible, and loud! The adrenalin rush during those meetings was unmistakably vibrant, electric, and powerful. The many opponents turned out in force, some with signs and banners and all with passion to be presented to Town officials and developers in a live meeting to show, in force, just how much real opposition there was to build on this wetland. Since Covid, those Town Hall gatherings have been reduced to Zoom meetings. Live meetings with hundreds of people compared with sitting at a kitchen table staring at a computer screen!! You tell me how much passion and adrenalin has been lost in the opposition !
But I write today to remind you of a neighborhood still brimming with sincere and logical opposition! People stressed over what they stand to lose! People worried about ripple effect damages to the peace and quiet of this small neighborhood! About structural damages to their homes inherent with disturbing hidden underground water courses and vibrating fragile soil stratum! About adding to an already strained menu of utility services to this neighborhood! Make no mistake! This development has negative impacts of all kinds to this area, these our dwellings and all of its inhabitants! We, the Town and her people stand to lose (Forever!!) one of her last few all natural green spaces! Please consider these losses and resultant wholesale changes to the, now, beautiful neighborhood if the proposed large four and five story building and garage under, along with the several townhouses are allowed to be built! The negative effects will be felt not only in the immediate vicinity but across Lake St. into Kelwyn Manor, and up both sides of Lake St. all the way to Mass. Ave.
I respectfully ask that you, the Conservation Commission deny the application to build and to conserve this existing wetland!
Respectfully submitted,
John C. Yurewicz