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Subject: 31 Hunting Lane/41 N. Main St: ZBA conditioning related to water quality and quantity
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 5:50:59 PM

TO: Sherborn Zoning Board of Appeals

FROM: Michael Lesser
resident - 54 Forest Street, Sherborn

DATE: May 27, 2021

RE: Sustainable Drinking Water Quantity and Quality Issues for 31 Hunting Lane/41 N. Main Street

The applicant continues to argue that the MassDEP review for State Permits related to drinking water and wastewater disposal will be sufficiently rigorous – as stated again in its May 26, 2021 email commenting on the CLAWE May 25, 2021 abutters group letter. Therefore, I want to repeat what has been noted by some town residents and boards: that the ZBA should include some specific water quantity and quality related minimum conditions, such as regarding the duration/type of pump testing and the geographical scope of monitoring residents' wells and wetlands, given our critical local need for long-term sustainable drinking water quality and quantity and our challenging local bedrock conditions.

Such conditions would be locally appropriate in that the MassDEP may be constrained by state-level issues that can or do not factor in some local issues and in that unfortunately the ZBA is not able to know now what the specific MassDEP requirements will be. These ZBA conditions would supplement the MassDEP process and/or could be changed based on information from future studies (and may even possibly be superseded by MassDEP).

This will be protective of both current and planned town residents due to the large downside of having water supply problems.

I think that some selected minimum conditions can be developed by the ZBA with local inputs even though related additional work by the peer reviewer Nobis was not agreed to. Assuming that the ZBA will not deny the project over these issues, I would like to think that the costs of such specific conditioning being appealed and overturned will not be large compared to the potential benefits – assuming that overturning specific conditions does not invalidate all of the other conditioning work.

Thank you for your continued attention to these issues.