

From: [Candace Cole](#)
To: [Larkin, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: Re: Why build in a flood
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 8:12:33 PM

CAREFUL - From outside - CHECK before you CLICK.

It's in reference to the Good Morning Wilton article

When It Rains, It Pours: Inland Wetlands Looks at Flood Risk for 131 Danbury Rd.

Your contact info was listed in the article

Excuse any mistakes sent from my iPhone

On Mar 13, 2024, at 8:07 AM, Larkin, Elizabeth <elizabeth.larkin@wiltonct.org> wrote:

Hi Candace,

Thank you for your message. If you would like to make this comment on a specific application where the Public Hearing is still open, please let me know. As there is no reference to any specific address, this cannot be added to a record for Public Hearing.

Best Regards,

Liz

Secretary, Environmental Affairs

Town of Wilton, CT

203-563-0180

From: Candace Cole <candacecole2014@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:25 AM

To: Larkin, Elizabeth <elizabeth.larkin@wiltonct.org>

Subject: Why build in a flood

CAREFUL - From outside - CHECK before you CLICK.

To whom it may concern

Why would anyone build in a known flood zone or a piece of property that is known for flooding? Water can and does do massive damage. If you have ever experienced a flood or even a leak of any kind you know the destructive nature of water. Water damage can be devastating financially and medically. Even worse, water can do damage to a structure that could result in mass casualties. So I ask you again why would anyone build in a known flood zone? Or property that floods often?

It's a known fact that grading the land surface, and constructing drainage networks increase runoff to streams from rainfall and snowmelt. As a result, the peak discharge, volume, and frequency of floods increase in nearby streams. Builders who tamper with even small wetlands can have big problems.

Wetlands are superb at purifying polluted water, replenishing aquifers and harboring wildlife. But they are almost always terrible places to build houses/building! These transitional zones—neither completely dry nor entirely liquid—are enormously valuable, especially when it comes to controlling floods. Wetlands act like natural sponges on the landscape, absorbing and then gradually releasing storm waters and lessening flood damage.

A bigger fear water that made them wet has to go somewhere. If it isn't seeping back into the basement of the structure built on the former wetland, the water likely is leaking into formerly dry homes of downstream property owners.

That's exactly what happened not long ago in the Pocono Mountains in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, after a developer drained a half-acre forested wetland and then dug a channel down the middle of the property. Thanks to that ditch, "the sponge wasn't acting like a sponge anymore," says Craig Todd, manager of the Monroe County Conservation District. Storm water sluicing through the drained wetland "ended up creating the largest eroded gulley in our county," he says. It clogged municipal culverts and flooded out two houses down stream.

Filling one small parcel of wetland may seem harmless, or rather redirecting that water away from that parcel, but the damage adds up when several property owners in a watershed also begin draining and building. That's why

conservationists are concerned.

Again why build in a known flood site? You will only have to deal with the “water” again at some later date.

Weather is only getting worse especially with rain. Plan for the 100 yr storms coming every 5 to 10.

Please rethink this project. Don't think it's in the best interest of the town in the long run.

Best

Candace

Wilton resident

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