

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Dear Chair Water Pollution Control Authority Lynne Vanderslice and Members:

Hello my name is Pamela Aris. I have provided a letter in more detail to Planning & Zoning, but would like to summarize why as business owners who have served the Wilton community for 28 years oppose the MR#154 proposal.

The first reason is the environment of 19 Cannon Road has flood zones, wetlands in the SE corner, a stream channel encroachment line running through the property, and an adjoining aquifer. The maintenance and safety of wastewater management systems are necessary to maintain the health of not only the area's population, but its environment as well. Architect Barbara Geddis, a member on the Wilton Center Master Plan Subcommittee, emphasized her concern at the November 3, 2022, WPCA meeting, about the impact of development at 19 Cannon Road on the wetlands, flood zones and adjoining aquifer.

Cannondale neighbor Steven Georgeou also commented at the Nov. 3, 2022, WPCA meeting, "I'm really confused about how we're planning to extend a sewer to a building that has not been designed or proposed. How could we as a town plan for such an important construction without a real understanding of what's being built?"

There are a variety of reasons for pause and concern regarding MR#154. As mentioned at the WPCA Nov. 3, 2022 meeting, the slope of the pipe is a concern. There is always an environmental risk associated with the construction of an underground pipe. Why are we taking this risk? We don't know, because nothing has been approved that will be hooked to the pipe. However, if the previously proposed 70-unit development on 2 acres in a residential R-2A zoning is proposed and approved at 19 Cannon Road, as the adjoining neighbor, I have concerns about drainage. Where would the water go for example after a heavy rainstorm with almost complete parking and building ground coverage?

Dearest to my heart -- is also preserving one of Wilton's few remaining historic neighborhoods. We feel very fortunate to be a part of the Wilton community, and in a small part preserve "what has been called" one of the most architecturally significant historic homes in Wilton with the ionic portico and doric columns in the Cannondale National Register Historic District. As property owners of the 1835 Greek Revival, in the historic neighborhood of Cannondale, we have preserved an important part of the town's legacy of the Cannon-Miller family.

In closing, we are concerned about the IRREVERSIBLE environmental impact on the landscape at 19 Cannon Road with a potential 70-unit development connected to the sewer extension on 2 acres in residential R-2A zoning. The density of the population on the site in question is concerning and will also result in traffic congestion on narrow roads. Is the frontage wide enough to accommodate the flow of traffic? We are opposed to MR#154, and hope that the community understands the negative impact it will have on the environment and the Cannondale National Register Historic District.

Thank you,
Pamela Aris

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