

Concerns about the Belmont Uplands (Silver Maple Forest) development

Dear Mr. Healy,

It has come to our attention that the Cambridge Conservation Commission has issued a permit for the installation of erosion and sedimentation controls at the Cambridge parcel adjacent to the Belmont Uplands development.

We are deeply concerned about the issuing of this permit when:

1. The status of the development itself remains in litigation at the Massachusetts Supreme Court.
2. The Cambridge City Council, the Arlington Board of Selectmen and the Belmont Board of Selectmen have voted numerous times to prevent this development from going forward.
3. The Belmont Selectmen and the Belmont Conservation Commission are actively working to stop the development from going forward.
4. The development itself is against the interests of area residents, given the considerable flood risks, habitat destruction and green space elimination involved.
5. Cambridge is about to embark on a Climate Change Adaptation study which is highly unlikely to conclude that this development is a positive move in the era of Climate Change.
6. Many citizens, environmental groups and others have expressed strong opposition to this development.

In light of these facts we urgently request that Cambridge stop issuing permits that in any way further this development unless and until the litigation has been fully resolved in favor of the developer and the Belmont Selectmen and Belmont Conservation Commission have stopped opposing this development.

In addition, we ask again that the City Manager of Cambridge or his representatives meet with the Belmont Selectmen as requested by the Cambridge City Council to discuss ways to prevent this development from going forward.

Your immediate attention to this urgent matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,