

Izak Gilbo

From: Jonathan Wyckoff <jon9wyckoff@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Planning Info
Cc: Walter And Mary Ellen Hoerman
Subject: Conservation Committee

ADVOCATES for the NORTH MILL POND
135 Sparhawk St
56 Dennett St

Chair McMillan and members of the Commission;

I'm writing a short note ,after reviewing with others on our board,the plans for 137 Northwest. Without commenting on the suitability of the lot for a home,we'd like to commend the engineering,especially the street drain outfall, and recommend the the permit be granted.

Also concerning the work session on the NMP Greenway,our only concern is the excavation required for the removal of the larger trees. Knowing the ground at that location, we would hope the contractor would remove only 1 at a time ,surrounded by silt fence, and not remove all the trees at once ,.leaving the ground open for potential storm water spread of the containments. The large ground screws for the viewing platform,filtration for runoffs,porous hot top and back flow preventers are all progressive ideas we completely support.

Thank You for your time;

JON Wyckoff,president of the Advocates for the North Mill Pond

Sent fro. m my iPad

RE: City Lot 123-15

Meeting: Conservation Commission 11/10/21

Dear Members of the Conservation Commission,

Please review the public comments submitted and presented for the October 13th meeting. Please review your own notes as well. It is interesting the application presented has not changed since then. *Attached please find an aerial view of the section of the North Mill Pond to be impacted by this project.* Please remember that this area of the pond is so overgrown it has been owned by nature for the last 50 years or more.

Some of the known facts about the North Mill Pond are: (a) there are high levels of toxins in the sediment such as: heavy metals, dioxins and furans (b) 1&31 Raynes/ 203 Maplewood's land has been under NHDES monitoring for quite a while (c) PFAS's from Pease have been leaching into the pond via the Hodgson Brook (d) drilling 39 helical pilings 10 to 25' into the North Mill Pond will disturb the encapsulated toxins (e) it is designated an impaired body of water by NHDES for fishing, swimming, boating, shell fishing (f) the EPA is supposed to test the sediments of bodies of water on a rotating basis about every 5 years-yet this pond has not been touched by the EPA-why? (g) the last time the sediment was tested was 1998

If you bought an old house which was suspected of having lead pipes would you let your two year old drink the water before testing it? The City is trying to move forward and supporting projects along the North Mill Pond to acquire easements for the North Mill Pond Trail. This trail is a wonderful idea! The important concept of the trail is it will allow **a lot more access** to this body of water by significantly more people of which **most will be from out of town** (2 large hotels about this property). Locals know not to allow their children or dogs into the sediment much less the waters of the South or North Mill Ponds.

The city has an obligation to protect its citizens and guests as much as possible. The sediment should be tested by either a developer, the city or a public agency to ensure it is safe **BEFORE** allowing any entity to drill into it for any reason. The North Mill Pond is a beautiful place because of its wildlife and its lack of large developments. It is the last natural place close to downtown Portsmouth. It is the gem of the West End. It won't do any good to add a board walk to look at an empty pond because the city allowed the encapsulated toxins to be released to build it.

Having visited many properties along the North Mill Pond, the best views are from the second story decks and windows. *Please consider spending the money for the boardwalk on viewing areas on the Maplewood Ave Bridge or removing the boardwalk and putting a viewing area in the 10' wide proposed easement in the 100' buffer of this property or moving the trail into the proposed easement and using the tree lined area for a few seats to enjoy the view without walking around in the 25' buffer.*

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Bratter
159 McDonough St
Property Owner

<https://goo.gl/maps/umEy5G1eD739kjb69>