

REC. 7/13/2020

From: B R <vtbren1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:55 PM
To: Jessica Spence <jspence@southkingstownri.com>
Cc: gleasont63@gmail.com
Subject: Re. Special use permit, Parkwood Drive

To South Kingstown Zoning Board of Review,

We are writing to request that you deny the special use permit to locate an on-site wastewater treatment system 40' closer to a wetland than allowed at Pole #5, Lot 82, Parkwood Drive. This property is across the road from us and we are concerned about the impact this encroachment will have on the environment.

Our primary concern is that discharge from the treatment system will impact groundwater recharge and degrade ground water quality. Protection of groundwater resources are especially important since the community of South Kingstown is exclusively dependent on use of groundwater. The increased nutrients added from the treatment system to the shallow groundwater close to the wetland can have impact on drinking water. In their most recent report, the Kingston Water District identified as having nitrate high enough to close Well#2 (<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/ac5a64a7-3466-4e9a-b0dc-e4ed073c4aeb/downloads/KWDCCR2020.pdf?ver=1594659685386>). In addition, excess nutrients contribute to algal blooms, some of which can be harmful to health and ecology, and this has been an increasing problem for Rhode Island. The property on Parkwood is close to a connected complex of wetlands and a pond in Potter Wood, so nutrients reaching the wetland near this property may impact the pond as well. Recent data from URIs Watershed Watch have shown that increasing temperature due to climate change as well as increased nutrient loads have led to increasing frequency of harmful algal blooms.
<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.02.11.944280v1>

We respectfully request that the proposal for the special use permit be re-examined and carefully considered under current knowledge and conditions. Since it was last reviewed in 2014, we know more about nutrient pollution and harmful algal blooms, and we have more data to understand how the hydrology and climate are rapidly changing. We hope that the permit will be re-evaluated with new current/ updated site data since hydrologic conditions have changed. We believe that the current risk of environmental impact is sufficient to deny the permit.

Sincerely,
Tim Gleason and Brenda Rashleigh
65 Parkwood Drive

From: Donald Zeyl <donaldzeyl@gmail.com>

RECEIVED 7/17/2020

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 2:37 PM

To: Jessica Spence <jspence@southkingstownri.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FW: Panelist for South Kingstown Zoning Board of Review

Hi Jessica,

Many thanks for this email and your phone message. I did not access them until the Zoning Board meeting was over, so I don't know if the Manny Vieira petition got to the floor of the meeting or not.

We look forward to having neighbors on the lot next door (#82 on the plat map). We purchased our lot (#83) in 1972 and built our home on it in 1974. We have been living there ever since. We hope to meet the Vieiras soon and welcome them to the neighborhood.

On the narrow issue of approving their petition we have no objection, given the fact that without approval the installation of the OWTS would Have to occur on our property, since the distance of 150' away from the wetland edge is a point on our property. We trust that the survey work that has been done to allow for a 110' distance is accurate and that the installation will not present a problem either for the Vieiras or for us.

There is, however, a larger concern, and that is how the groundwater level on our property would be affected by the construction, not only of the OWTS at 110' away from the wetland edge, but also of the dwelling itself, at 15' away from our property line. During the late winter and early spring the groundwater level on our property is exceedingly high, as it is on all the properties on the east side of Parkwood Drive. Ten years ago we installed French drains and sump pumps (by Pioneer Basement) to keep our basement dry, but during the months of March and April in particular, these drains and pumps are working nonstop at full capacity. We fear that the construction to take place on the Vieira property will raise the groundwater level on our property to the point of overstraining our drainage system beyond its capacity to keep our basement dry. We have had some misadventures in this area already.

Around 25 or 30 years ago the Town of South Kingstown installed a series of catch basins along the east side of Parkwood Drive, apparently to deal with the problem of water runoff. I don't believe these have proved to be sufficient to abate the problem. Is there a system that the Town could install that would absorb and dispose of the excessive groundwater under the lots on the east side of Parkwood Drive? A storm sewer system perhaps?

Just askin'.

Thanks for your response to our concerns, Jessica

Sincerely,

Don and Judy Zeyl
50 Parkwood Drive
Kingston, RI 02881
(401) 789-9398