

B. Bonnie Baranowski, Ph.D.
61 Southwinds Drive
Wakefield, RI 02879

July 1, 2021

Town of South Kingstown
Zoning Board of Review
180 High Street
Wakefield, RI 02879

This letter is written in opposition to the petition of Garrett Holmes, LLC for a Special Use Permit. It is my understanding that the Hearing held on June 16, 2021 has been extended to discuss traffic and the Traffic Study; these are the bases for my objections.

In June 2018, I purchased my home at 61 Southwinds Drive and for 3 years have observed traffic on RT 108/Kingstown Rd. I cross on foot from Southwinds to the Mobil station daily and exit Southwinds with my vehicle onto Kingstown Rd.

I earned a Ph.D. in Statistics, Tests and Measurements and had a 40+ year career in higher education teaching quantitative methods and research design, primarily in graduate management programs. I also taught the forecasting and econometric sections of the actuarial science review program and served as a consultant on numerous data collection and analysis project. It is with this professional background that I raise serious questions about the Traffic Study that has been submitted.

There are two (2) foundational constructs to any study: Reliability and Validity. Reliability refers to the ability to replicate the results, if repeated would we have the same results. Validity is an indication that the measurement process measure what it proports to measure. Reliability is required to have validity.

In my professional opinion the Traffic Study lacks Reliability and therefore also lacks Validity. Traffic volume is not constant and in Time Series vocabulary has "seasonality". This is in part addressed by looking at weekday and Saturday time frames. However, a major "seasonal" component is missing from this study. Kingstown Rd. is a major artery to the URI campus and traffic fluctuates with the academic calendar. The study says that the data was collected in May 2019 but

no specific dates are reported. The last day of classes for the Spring 2019 term was April 30, final exams were held May 2, 3 6-10 and commencement held May 18 and 19. May is NOT a typical month for traffic on this road, it probably has the lowest volume. If the data was collected in September, October or any of the other months when URI classes are in session, I am certain the traffic counts would be much higher. There is a discussion of an adjustment for “normal growth of 1% per year” but that that does not address the impact of the URI academic calendar on traffic. Two new residential housing projects will impact traffic, the 32 units on Curtis Corner Rd. just west of the Police Station and the expansion of the Tower Landing Apartments north on Kingstown Rd.

The increase in traffic raises an important public safety concern. Southwinds is a 55+ community and just north is Brookdale South Bay, a senior living facility. My 96-year-old mother lives with me and I have had to call 911 in a life threatening situation. It is not unusual to see traffic heading south stopped for the light at Curtis Corner Rd. backed up to the Mobil station in the late afternoon. If we now add vehicles heading north attempting a left-hand turn in this area or a delivery truck blocking the road, we are potentially losing critical lifesaving minutes to assist many senior residents of South Kingstown.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my position and professional opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,

B. Bonnie Baranowski, Ph.D.