

Comments from members of the Lakes & Ponds Committee on the Proposed Project at 47 Main Street, Upton MA

Three members of the Lakes & Ponds Committee of Upton have commented on the submitted plan.

1. I am in support of a 40B project. It is clear that there is a need for a plan for a 40B project and it is also clear that this is NOT the location.

An underground stream in this location is quite fascinating and concerning. I am wondering if we have old maps that might support these underground streams that are now showing as wetlands. If this truly exists, it is of much concern. With the increase in stormwater, we must have a clear place for water to overflow and be absorbed and wetlands will become more and more valuable as we work with climate change.

I do have many other concerns with this project but speaking in my role as a member of the Upton Lakes and Ponds Committee, it will keep my concerns on this strain to the environment and to Upton water resources.

There is certainly a better location for a 40B project in Upton.

2. I do have concerns about the proposed development; it seems like it does impinge on wetlands and, if I read the maps correctly, a brook.
3. The location for the proposed project, 47 Main Street in Upton, raises at least two serious concerns with the Lakes & Ponds Committee. First, the current site is a natural wetland with subterranean streams that drain through this area. Any construction, not to mention one of this size. A basement or any below-grade structure will divert the flow of these streams, changing the natural water patterns and, possibly, causing flooding of other, nearby houses. The stream diversion itself is the L&P concern. Second, the paved areas, particularly the parking lots, present a surface that will accumulate automobile waste, from tires, leaked oil and gasoline, and the general trash that motorists drop, e.g., ashtray contents, bags and wrappers, etc. This cumulative waste will be shunted to drains that flow into the current watersheds (Center Brook, Mill Pond), contaminating them and their riparian ecosystems.

Submitted by Gary Strichartz, Chmn.

Lakes & Ponds Committee

Town of Upton.