

Hello, Mayor Hoydick,

First of all congratulations on your election... I wish you much success in your new and challenging job.

I am Deb Cahill, a new resident of Stratford as of last July. I live at 80 Harvest Ridge Road, right off James Farm Rd, near Chapel St. My husband and I are very happy here, love our house and new neighborhood.

Needless to say learning about the potential development right around the corner at 795 James Farm Rd, literally gives me a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. It's already a pretty busy area with lots of wetlands that are obvious everywhere you go. I can't really even picture an apartment house for over 100 people somehow tucked under the power lines off James Farm.

I plan to attend the zoning board meeting tonight and am doing what I can to support the neighborhood.

I am sure you are up to date on this topic.

My question to you is, do you think there's a decent chance that the town might be able to use some matching grant money to purchase this parcel to keep as open land? I understand this piece of property has been brought up for zoning changes multiple times and I can't see any end to this unless the town buys it.

I totally understand the need for affordable housing but there are lots of ways to achieve that without threatening our wetlands and safety.

Thanks for your time and attention,

Deb Cahill

And the Mayor's response:

Ms. Cahill,

Thank you for your message, and a belated welcome to Stratford!

The proposed development at 795 James Farm Road is a tremendous source of concern for me as well for a variety of reasons.

In addition to the environmental concerns it poses, I do not believe that the proposed 116-unit apartment complex is in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. The proposal also requires a 28-foot tall

retaining wall due to the steep grade of the land – something that raises public safety concerns with regard to natural erosion and the ability of public safety equipment such as fire apparatus to be safely operated there. Our Town Engineer has expressed those concerns to the town’s Zoning Commission, where our town attorneys laid out a case against this development as well.

The Zoning Commission will have its public hearing on the subject continued later this month and it is important that as a resident of Stratford your voice is heard. I would suggest you also get in touch with Meral Prewitt who is with the Concerned Citizens of Stratford – they are organizing an effort to oppose this development. You can reach her at meral023@optonline.net.

Again, thank you for your interest in this subject, and for your opposition to this proposal. If I can be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Laura R. Hoydick

Mayor

Town of Stratford



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