

**From:** [Dwight Baldwin](#)  
**To:** [Todd Selig](#); [Karen Edwards](#)  
**Subject:** Gerrish Road Extension/Thoughts for the Planning Board and Conservation Commission  
**Date:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:46:52 PM

---

Dear Todd, Planning Board and Conservation Commission:

I write as a former Chair of the Conservation Commission and as a concerned citizen who has just learned of the proposal for the building of a housing development off Gerrish Road. The reason for my late recognition of the environmental threat to wetlands contained in this proposal is that we have recently moved to RiverWoods Durham and thus only recently have had the opportunity to frequently walk through the Ambler-Gerrish neighborhood.

As I understand the situation, the developer wants permission from the town to build an access road through the wetlands to a proposed development behind. It appears that the small stream that flows through the wetland is perennial and that the wetland is fully functioning with all the inherent positive services that such wetlands provide. I also believe that Durham owns the wetland through which the developer wishes to construct the access road.

If these observations are indeed fact, then I can see no justification for the Planning Board/Conservation Commission/Town Council to approve the request for permission to construct the access road. Clearly it would be a violation of current Town and State ordinances to approve the destruction of this functioning wetland even with assurances from the developer that replacement wetlands would be constructed. Research suggests that such efforts to construct replacement wetlands never achieve the same level of services as the original which they attempt to replicate.

Secondly, if my facts are correct, it does seem a bit unusual that the developer recently sold a piece of land off of Route 108 which would have provided an alternative access way to the land on which he proposes to build. Was he trying to force the Town's hand?

Although not related directly to the destruction of the wetlands, the proposed development itself does create the likelihood of decreased water quality and increased stream discharge/flooding after major storm events downstream from the development due to an increase in impervious surfaces and the cutting of numerous trees. Increased nutrient and hydrocarbon inflow would also likely occur.

For all these reasons, I urge the Town to reject the proposal. To approve the request would go against the very tenets for which the wetland ordinances were approved by our Town Council and the State.

Sincerely,

Dr. A. Dwight Baldwin, Jr.  
14 Stone Quarry Drive, Apt.106  
Durham, NH 03824