

Karin M. (Hurley) Gertsch
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November 7, 2021

Ms. Sarah Mellish, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
Town Offices
10 Central Street
Manchester by-the-Sea, MA 01944

Dear Ms. Mellish:

As an owner of a share of my grandmother's woodlot (Helena E. Hurley Trust, one and a quarter acres of registered land: Document #166497)—belonging to our family for over one hundred years—that abuts the proposed Shingle Hill development area, I am very concerned. The wastewater treatment plant proposed for the SLV project will be too close to the boundary of our land. The leaching field will run downhill directly onto our land. Lots of blasting will be needed at the SLV site. For certain, the SLV project will destroy the natural environment that exists here. For these reasons I strongly oppose the SLV project.

As you know, the Manchester Essex Conservation Trust (MECT) has spent more than fifty years working to preserve open space to protect our water quality as well as the environment for plants and animals living in the unspoiled areas off upper School Street. Thanks to MECT's efforts and vision, many people—not just those living in Manchester and Essex—have greatly benefited from the beauty and peace this natural area provides. I have learned that nineteen variances—from the Conservation Commission alone—are required to move ahead with this monstrosity! How can the Zoning Board of Appeals approve the blowing up of Shingle Hill in these critically important wetland and woodland areas just so one developer can construct his pipedream of an inappropriately located 40B Development?

The proposed project on upper School Street—on Shingle Hill—will make a huge visual impact on every passerby—forever! There will never be trees high enough or fences tall enough to hide this housing project. The land is steep and rocky; it will need to be blown up! The abutting landscape will be adversely impacted in many ways. The pristine Hurley woodlot, and other parcels abutting the proposed development land, as well as the protected open space, will be spoiled—forever!

I have been keeping abreast of the affordable housing projects the Town of Manchester is planning to provide by expanding its existing sites and developing new areas that will be far more suitable—within

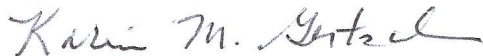
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the existing community—where residents will be nearer to shops, trains, parks and beach, and necessary services; in other words, where residents will be part of the existing community rather than on the other side of Route 128. I am convinced the people of Manchester will find more appropriate locations in town.

For Geoff Engler, the head of SLV, this housing project is just another money-making endeavor, and then he'll move on to the next development. For the townspeople and all those who travel along this road, the natural beauty will be destroyed—forever! The land cannot speak for itself, it needs caring people to do that. The Zoning Board of Appeals should not feel forced to accept this large, inappropriate housing development because Manchester by-the-Sea needs to provide more affordable housing units. As an abutter I am asking the Zoning Board of Appeals to please give this project your utmost consideration, while the people of Manchester continue to work towards new affordable housing units. The SLV 40B project proposed for Shingle Hill is **not** the answer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karin M. Gertsch".

Karin M. (Hurley) Gertsch