

opposition to Shingle Place Hill project

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Sun 6/19/2022 3:55 PM

To: Sarah Mellish <ZBACChairperson@manchester.ma.us>

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Dear Chairperson,

As a frequent hiker at the Manchester Essex Woods, I am writing to express my very strong opposition to the proposed Shingle Place Hill development proposal. My grounds for objection are:

1. **Aesthetic.** As a resident of Essex, I find it highly objectionable that Manchester seems to place its less-desirable developments on the border with Essex (e.g. The Mac, a sewage treatment plant, various commercial cuts into the forested lands leading between Essex and Rte 128.) Please do not add anything else to our view that you do not want to see yourselves in your truly picturesque town. Essex shares some of its most beautiful land with Manchester, protected by the admirable organization MECT. Both towns need this unspoiled beauty for all citizens to enjoy.
2. **Environmental.** The natural resources of both towns depend on a kind of buffer between the reserved forest and the developed world in order to maintain water purity, avoid erosion, and protect water resources from polluted storm runoff. There are many animals and plants in the forest, with pristine habitats like vernal pools, which necessarily require isolation from civilization. The entire ecology will be upended with the proposed large development perched on a hillside right above the marsh and surrounding forest.
3. **Quiet.** The Manchester Essex Woods are quieter than most of the places around it. Mental health requires a retreat place to be available to all. Increased traffic and construction noise will shatter that essential peace.

Please find it in your hearts to value the special nature of this environmental gem, which is totally irreplaceable. Surely there are other spaces where development will not so destroy our common wealth. Do not forget that this area, so vulnerable to the impact of overdevelopment, belongs to both our towns.

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