

Tarra Jolly

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] W3529

From: Suzanne Edmunds <suzedmund@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 7, 2022 9:31 AM
To: Tarra Jolly <tarraj@cityofws.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] W3529

Suzanne Edmunds, MD

1827 Lake Point Drive

Winston Salem, NC 27103

April 28, 2022

Dear Planing Board Committee Member:

As a long-term resident of Stratford Cove (the subdivision behind Huntington Woods), I would like to register my adamant opposition to development proposal W3529. I believe this project is ill-conceived and short-sighted. I urge you to carefully consider the points cited here, and to prevent this proposal from moving forward.

Our neighborhood would bear the brunt of much of the traffic in and out of this new development. Many of the residents here currently enjoy the use of our peaceful roads for exercise, walking and biking together. The sense of community has increased dramatically since COVID, as neighbors shifted to more time at home and got to know each other better. Visiting while out walking dogs or sharing a bike ride with the kids has become woven into the fabric of our daily lives. There are many young families with children who enjoy the freedom to play in these streets. An influx of traffic on the scale anticipated would have a devastating impact on our way of life, while also placing residents at risk of accident and injury. In addition, the infrastructure, the roads themselves, cannot absorb the impact of construction vehicles or the massive increase in the volume of traffic in and out of the proposed development.

Being very familiar with the land under consideration for development, I fear the dreadful impact that urbanization of this heavily forested area would have. The areas that are proposed to be left "environmentally intact" are currently always underwater, sometimes underwater, or at significant risk of flooding. I have walked these woods for 18 years and have witnessed the impact of the increasingly harsh weather conditions. The acceleration in erosion, with gullies widened and deepened, tree roots exposed, and expanded pools of standing water has been impressive. We are already facing drainage problems in the area adjacent to the woods on Stratford Cove. This proposed development will

strip away a significant amount of the forest floor, destroying its natural ability to absorb water, and potentially creating dangerous and damaging circumstances for current homeowners as well as new residents.

Urban deforestation is recognized as a critical issue worldwide. Trees protect our cities from the effects of harsh natural conditions, buffering the impact of heavy rainfall and stabilizing temperatures. They sequester carbon dioxide and pollution. Forward-thinking cities from New York City to Los Angeles, and others around the world from Oslo to Johannesburg, have joined a coalition to promote recognition of the importance of responsible stewardship of these precious resources. From their web site, Cities4Forests:

<https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/cities4forests/about-cities4forests>

Cities4Forests encourages peer-to-peer learning and connects cities with technical support from institutions with expertise in cities, forests, climate crisis, water, communications, finance, policy and social equity. This helps cities recognize their interdependence with the world's forests and use their political, economic and cultural power to protect and manage those forests for human well-being.

With corporations the world over planting trees in order to off-set their carbon footprints, surely we can recognize that razing a mature forest with hundreds of years old trees is ill-advised. Can we not join forward-thinking cities in preserving areas such as this in recognition of their myriad benefits?

As a medical professional, I had a choice of job opportunities when I chose to move to Winston-Salem. One of the most persuasive attributes of this city was the ability to work at a first-class hospital and still live in an area that seemed, in many respects, rural. I am not alone in that perspective; I know many nurses and physicians who spend their off-time hiking and mountain biking. We value the sense of space, the room to breathe. This proposed development will destroy that for the neighborhood in which I live.

There is a ripple effect for every action; I think you will find that the negative consequences of allowing this proposal to move forward far outweigh any potential benefit. PLEASE help us stop this proposed development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzanne M. Edmunds MD

