



Town of Winchester Conservation Commission Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon St.

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To: Winchester Select Board
From: Zeke Nims, Chair, Conservation Commission
Date: July 16, 2020
Re: The Vale Peer Review

The Conservation Commission is interested in obtaining a peer review of the Notices of Intent submitted by The Vale with regard to wildlife habitat, one of the interests protected under the Wetlands Protection Act.

We note that the memo from the Engineering Department includes a request for a review of stormwater and flooding impacts from the project, which include opportunities to incorporate pollution attenuation, green infrastructure and low impact development techniques, which we fully support.

We would also request, as part of that review, that this peer review consider building design for net zero energy consumption, solar power to offset energy use, and replacement for lost carbon sequestration caused deforestation of the site, all of which impact Winchester via climate change. All of these matters are in line with the Climate Action Plan, recently approved by the Board on June 1st.

While the above covers a number of Conservation Commission concerns, we also believe that the project's impact on wildlife should be examined by professionals specializing in that field. Such studies typically include a survey, an impact analysis, and suggestions for mitigation. This study would look at the project as a whole, although there are multiple filings.

To that end, we have made contact with the firm of Horsley and Witten, seeking an estimate which we hope to have available at the meeting.