Submitted via email on 1/16/21

Dear Walpole ZBA,

As a resident of Neponset St. in South Walpole for over 50 years, I must voice my concern regarding the 55 Summer St. Cider Edge and Cider Crossing 40b housing project as it impacts our local community. As other have voiced, the issue of traffic and safety is of great concern. With the proposal (intersection plan dated 12/20/2020) it seems clear that this housing development is larger than our infrastructure can handle. It is my opinion that such a drastic change to the historic common in South Walpole should raise a red flag to the town that the size of the project exceeds its surroundings. I realize that the reworking of the Summer St. to Washington St. intersection including the addition of a Traffic Signal is an effort to better manage the additional traffic the project will impose. However, I fear that a traffic signal will only add to the congestion and envision morning commuter traffic backed up on Summer St. to beyond the rail crossing as well as the traffic on Washington St. backing up to Boyden School and beyond. I do not feel that any change to the South Walpole Common traffic flow will help handle the large influx of traffic the 55 Summer St project will add. It seems that the only real solution to prevent an unsafe traffic condition would be to downsize the project.

I also share with others the concern over the Water and Sewer usage. Are we certain our systems can handle the additional usage and where does that leave us in the long term? Water is a finite resource that if abused would have dire consequences for our community. Clear understanding of the impacts on this resource and how it will be impacted by the 55 Summer St project and future development is critical.

I strongly urge the ZBA to take an extensive look at these issues to ensure that we are not left with a diminished quality of life in South Walpole. Thank you for your consideration and service to our community.

Kind regards,

Robert S. Belcher
50 Neponset St.
South Walpole