

**From:** [Mario Corso](#)  
**To:** [Patrick Deschenes](#)  
**Subject:** 24 Darwin Lane  
**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 7:28:49 PM

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October 7, 2021

Mr. Deschenes,

We are writing regarding the proposal for 40B housing units at Darwin Lane being discussed at the October 13 ZBA meeting. We are 20 year residents of Walpole at 24 Darwin Lane, which is on the cul de sac where the entrance to new housing is being proposed.

Although we understand the need for subsidized or low income housing in Walpole and the State of Massachusetts, we believe it would be a disservice to the current residents of Darwin Lane, any future residents of 40B units, and the town of Walpole if the project is approved for this site.

Consistent with what the town ruled many years ago against development of this land, any reasonable person would have to conclude it is unsafe for construction as well as for living, and affordable housing should not be built under unsafe circumstances any more so than standard housing, despite what profit motivated builders and developers may argue.

For starters, anyone who lives on Darwin Lane now knows the area is already congested with parked cars and turnaround traffic, which would only dramatically worsen with years of construction and significantly more residents, noting there are still many young children living/playing on the street. Access to existing or future housing for safety vehicles is also a huge concern-the new buildings would create a much larger area with limited access, and although emergencies are rare, we all want to make sure the rare case is not catastrophic, but well prepared for. The density of buildings and topography of the land also creates potentially unsafe areas for children and emergency access, and again, could last for years. Finally, we were present at numerous town meetings where the importance of the water well on this land was detailed. We don't think anyone can provide assurance that there would not be any kind of disruption or damage to the well, and this is an issue not just for Darwin Lane residents, but the entire town of Walpole.

We thank you for your attention to this matter, and hope that the aforementioned issues are given just due and serious weight in the building application review. If Walpole has to invoke a Safe Harbor in order to prevent this project from subjecting Darwin Lane and nearby residents as well as the town's water supply at risk, we hope that is the chosen course of action. But, if Walpole and the State of Massachusetts are determined to provide additional low income housing opportunities, there must be better locations to do so.

Sincerely,

Mario and Susan Corso

24 Darwin Lane