

My name is David Hoffman, and I have resided at 46 Chestnut Street for 30 years.

I am on the Board of the Wellesley Conservation Land Trust. The Board has had an opportunity to review the plans for the proposed development at 489 Worcester St.

Based on our review of the construction and wetland mitigation plans, we have taken the following position:

**"The WCLT takes the position that we do not support the removal of any trees or other disturbance within the 100 foot wetlands buffer zone on the northern side of the property known as 489 Worcester St. Nor should any blasting be permitted that could potentially impact the abutting wetlands."**

While WCLT recognizes the necessity of continuing to develop additional housing in our community, we strongly believe that future construction should not compromise the remaining wild open spaces in town, especially the limited amount of precious unspoiled wetland areas which benefit so much wildlife and are part of the Charles River Watershed.

The proposed plans to re-zone and develop a large condominium complex at 489 Worcester Street would involve significant building construction within the 100 foot wetlands barrier boundary, as well as the removal of numerous trees which currently provide a shaded canopy which is critical to preserving the natural state of the glen and permanent stream in the bordering wetlands. This area, while it does contain some non-native tree species, has been left untouched for many years, and represents a unique wildlife corridor essential to the preservation of the linked undeveloped land areas on the north side of Rt. 9 leading down to the Charles River.

Plans to plant new shrubs and saplings, some of which are non-native, would not replicate the current full canopy for decades, and the benefits of water absorption/flood mitigation, shade/temperature modulation, and carbon sequestration, all of which are important to the town, would be seriously degraded.

Furthermore, the fact that blasting and heavy machinery activity for significant excavation into solid ledge would need to occur within the 100 foot wetlands barrier would present an unacceptable risk of degradation to the bordering wetlands, including potential long-term contamination with toxic chemicals. In addition to the end result of proceeding with the current proposed development plan, the significant noise and other disruptions during the construction process itself would have a very negative impact on the wildlife that currently frequent the bordering wetlands area.

Whatever housing is ultimately built on this site, the 100 foot wetlands barrier should remain in its current wild state.