

**To the Newton Board of Aldermen,**

**We have been living on E. Quinobequin Rd. for more than 29 years. We have watched the city of Newton grow and welcomed the progress it has brought. However, increased stress and strain on the infrastructure of this old city and its old systems such as drainage, sewer and traffic control has created a need for repair and mitigation strategies to protect those who already reside here as well as to welcome new residents and industry.**

**The proposed Riverside Development project stands to impact our neighborhood in many areas. Sewer lines will be directly tied into our system, which has already been taxed especially during the severe storms of March 2010. In all the years we have lived in our home, we had never experienced water issues, not even a hint of dampness. During the 3 day ordeal of heavy rains and compounding drainage issues along Quinobequin Rd. and the Charles River, neither city or state agencies could control the water flow and dozens of residents were flooded many of them suffering severe damages which were not covered by insurance. Since that time, state and local agencies have not put mitigating strategies in place to insure protection from another such flood. Adding the Riverside project without the city building in some safeguards and negotiating mitigation beyond the mandatory requirements, from the developer would be a detriment to the residents of the neighborhoods surrounding Riverside. This should be a mandatory condition for the special permit. Furthermore, funding for this mitigation should specifically be spent in Sewer Area "A", where the project is to be connected to. In addition, the city needs to make sure that no sewage is released onto Lyons Field or into the Charles River. This is a serious health risk for the public that uses the open space, and devastating to our environment. Putting children that play on Lyons Field at risk is irresponsible.**

**Our second area of concern is traffic at the intersections of Route 16, Quinobequin Rd.,**

**Walnut St. Wellesley, Quinobequin Rd. and Route 9 as well as the length of Quinobequin and the streets that intersect it. We have expressed our concerns to the developer at public meetings and in writing and we have been told that we are exaggerating. Frankly we find this insulting. Anyone who uses these roads during the morning and afternoon commute knows how the traffic backs up for long distances and passing the corridor takes a long time. I suggest that members of the developer's team come and sit at the corner of Quinobequin and Rt. 16, and view the traffic on 128 south bound from 5:30 P.M. to 7 PM on a weekday and then comment.**

**In a world filled with navigation systems and traffic apps on cell phones, drivers have many driving alternatives. When the traffic is backed up and a driver wants to get on 128, he will receive the information to cut through Quinobequin and it is a "straight shot." It is being done now and increased traffic will make this winding recreation road very dangerous. As you already know, jurisdiction on Quinobequin lies with the state police and funding for traffic enforcement is not available. Road maintenance and open space preservation belongs to the DCR. Their lack of care, due to financial restrictions has caused further complications. Residents are asking for your HELP in maintaining a neighborhood environment and preserve the recreational road, safe and hazard free and prevent it from becoming a commuter road.**

**We welcome a new and improved Riverside however we ask that it be renovated with all means necessary to protect the residents who already live in the surrounding neighborhoods. You have a responsibility to the people living in this area to provide a written plan in hand from you and from the developer with funding established to mitigate the affected areas of this project. We do not wish to trade one neighborhood for another but welcome a new and improved neighborhood, and ask the developer to accept the responsibility of being a good neighbor.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sona and Vanik Petrossian**

**71 E. Quinobequin Rd.**

**Waban, MA 02468**

**October 16, 2012**

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