



CARDEROCK SPRINGS
National Register of Historic Places

January 28, 2021

Re: **Re: Item 5, January 28, 2021 Agenda**

Congressional Country Club: Final Forest Conservation Plan Amendment No. CBA 1206

Dear Members of the Planning Board:

I am President of the Carderock Springs Citizens Association, which represents approximately 600 residences in Carderock Springs. Carderock Springs is located immediately to the east of the Congressional Country Club with its entrance off of River Road. The stream which outflows from the Congressional Country Club property runs through our neighborhood under Fenway Road and into Cabin John Creek. In summer 2019 this stream overflowed and washed out the culvert under Fenway Road, collapsing the road and blocking access to the community from River Road for over four months.

The July Forest Conservation Plan adopted by the Planning Board for the Congressional Country Club in 2019 in connection with the mass grading of its golf course, which approved the removal of hundreds of on-site trees and acres of forest conservation areas, stated that the removal of these forest conservation areas would not violate State water quality standards or cause measurable degradation in water quality by stormwater management practices proposed on site. Now Congressional Country Club is proposing removing more trees and forest conservation areas with the same claim of no impacts on water quality.

We have however witnessed over the past eighteen months continuous degradation of the water quality in the stream running under Fenway Road. The stream is frequently full of sediment, often for weeks, following rain events. Attached are photographs taken over the past year showing these conditions. The Carderock Springs Citizens Association and individual residents have repeatedly complained to M-NCCPC staff, County DPS inspectors and County DEP. Follow-up inspections have resulted in several citations, fines, and even a Stop Work Order in February 2020 for the Club's failure to comply with conditions of the sediment control and/or the approved plan.

We have been told by DPS that it has now authorized the removal of the on-site sediment control traps that were on-site during the grading process. However, as recently as this month, inspectors from MNCPPC noted there *"are some open areas of disturbance that require stabilization and some areas of silt fence that requires maintenance. There are some areas that required new silt fence to be installed and some of the existing silt fence that required maintenance. We issued a Notice of Violation for the required maintenance repairs."*

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The existing Forest Conservation Plan requires the Club to do on-site restoration planting. However, we have heard that much of this planting has not occurred, or is occurring on the elevated berms located on the golf course that will not impede the continuous water drainage into the stream.

Perhaps most galling is that rather than requiring the Club to perform mitigation of much of the removal of the water absorbing trees and plantings on its 380 acre site, the Forest Conservation Plan allowed the Club credits towards off-site planting. We understand that the mitigation plan for this amendment to the Forest Conservation Plan will permit purchase of forest conservation credits in the Anacostia River watershed, which obviously isn't even in the same local watershed as the Cabin John stream.

Our message is this. What was done/calculated for the original Forest Conservation Plan clearly didn't work. Now the Club is seeking an amendment to remove more trees and conservation areas without repairing the damages caused by the original plan. We find this unacceptable and demand that the MNCPPC reevaluate the Forest Conservation Plan and require appropriate mitigation of the obvious and continuing degradation of water quality running into the Cabin John stream.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,



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