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November 6, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Hughes  
Town Planner  
Concord Planning Division  
141 Keyes Road  
Concord, MA 01742

Re: Center & Main - Support for the Planning Board to Reserve Land for Public Purpose

Dear Ms. Hughes,

The purpose of this letter is to express support to the Planning Board for reservation of land for public purpose within the site at Center & Main according to the Town of Concord, MA Subdivision Rules and Regulations Section 6.20. This letter considers the input of a number of community members.

At present, there is no public wooded or open space between the Main St. thoroughfare (Main St. is not easily crossable with small children), and the railroad (the railroad is not safely crossable except at Conant St. or at Commonwealth Ave. in town). Rideout Playground is practically and literally "on the other side of the tracks." There is an opportunity here to remedy that to the benefit of both the current and future inhabitants between Main St. and the railroad (inclusive of prospective inhabitants of the proposed subdivision). With the current density of homes proposed in that area by the developer, it seems only right that the town pursue a way to create some additional public open and / or wooded space for town residents, particularly for those who abut the development.

By way of example, the public space could border Highland St. and be accessible by a sidewalk passing through the development's entrance on Main St., providing easy access for all residents in this area. A combination of open space and wooded space would be welcomed by the community. We appreciated the park proposed in the now abandoned PRD. We are curious to know if it is possible to revive a piece of that PRD specifically or, at least, find a suitable alternative. There are also opportunities to preserve a large contiguous wooded lot given the adjacent Town-owned land at the Northwest side and the wetlands owned by Junction Square at the Northeast side. A reserved wooded space at the Northern edge of the site would serve this purpose, creating a wildlife corridor, and acting as a buffer to the wetlands and the railroad tracks there.

These suggestions align well with the Town's aspirations to preserve and increase tree canopy (for those areas left wooded), to promote low impact development, and generally to promote environmental sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,



John Cooley, Ph.D.