

7/23/21 Email from Bill Pierson

Good day, Mr Gustin. I wish to provide input for the Development Review Board, regarding a topic to be discussed at their meeting on 8/03/2021. The topic is ZP-21-508; 31 North Ave (RM-W, Ward 3C) Steve Trombley.

I am interested in this topic because my property abuts the lot for which the variance has been requested. I live in the Condo building at 33 North Ave.

My concern about the variance for the front yard setback along Depot St has to do with storm water. To be clear, I'm not talking about rain water that may fall on the lot itself.

In 2020 DPW installed a new storm drain, which runs from 33 North Avenue down to Depot St. The new drain pipe is 18 inches in diameter, which means it can deliver thousands of gallons of water per minute. The outlet of the storm drain is on the east side of Depot St. The outlet has a large concrete baffle on it, to prevent any storm surge from washing out Depot St.

Water which runs out of this storm drain is designed to flow down Depot St, in an open swale on the east side of the street. This swale abuts the lot for which the variance has been requested.

With this new storm drain in place, any future "extreme weather event" could send a very strong water-flow down the storm drain, and into the swale on Depot St. My worry about granting the variance is: if the new house gets built close to Depot St, could the foundation of the house get damaged by rushing storm water?

To illustrate my concern, I have placed two videos on my personal Google Drive at <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/16dKggrijxWNzc63OLRkfXdqqMgbuHE-c>

Please feel free to download the videos or to view them from that location.

The first video shows water coming out of the storm drain onto Depot St.

The second video shows water running past the lot at "0 Depot St".

Please bear in mind that both of these videos were captured during an ordinary summer thunderstorm on 7/20/21, which was NOT as prolonged as the "extreme weather event" that occurred in Burlington on the night of 10/31/2019.

In 2019, the accumulated storm water had been strong enough to wash out the driveway of the condo building at 33 North Avenue -- the sheer quantity of storm water was enough to cause more than \$100,000 worth of damage.

I ask the Development Board to consider what may happen in terms of storm water on Depot St the next time Burlington gets a record amount of rain in 24 hours ("extreme weather event"). I would venture to suggest that the base of the foundation of Mr Trombley's building should be high enough to be secure, even if the swale would "burst its banks".

Respectfully submitted by:

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