



TOWN OF CONCORD
Division of Natural Resources
141 Keyes Road, Concord, MA 01742
(978) 318-3285

To: Elizabeth Hughes, Town Planner
From: Delia Kaye, Natural Resources Director
Re: NOVO Riverside Commons Comprehensive Permit, 292 & 294 Baker Avenue
Date: February 12, 2024

The Natural Resources Commission opened the hearing for the above-referenced project on January 17, 2024, and it has been continued to the February 28, 2024 meeting. The Commission offered the following comments at the January 17, 2024 meeting.

The Applicant proposes to deed a 6.8-acre parcel of land (Parcel B), as a community benefit, to the Town for open space purposes. Parcel B is entirely within jurisdictional wetlands, and does not connect to any Town or land trust conservation lands, nor any other Town land. Parcel B is also fully contained within the 34-acre Conservation Restriction (CR) granted to the Natural Resources Commission in 2003.

A more meaningful community benefit would be for the Applicant to provide a financial contribution to the Town to ensure that the proposed Assabet River Bridge and Trail can be constructed, including any amendments to existing CRs and creation of new CRs. The proposed bridge and trail will provide a tremendous benefit to current employees of the 300 Baker Ave complex, as well as future NOVO Riverside Commons residents, and ensuring that its construction is accomplished seems to be a far more meaningful community benefit than deeding Parcel B to the Town.