

Kowalski, Matthew

From: Malini Raghavan [maliniraghavan.aa@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 10:35 PM
To: Kowalski, Matthew; Dadoo/Prasad; Ananya Mayukha
Subject: 2250 Ann Arbor-Saline Road Project

Dear Mr. Kowalski and planning commission members:

I am a resident at 2122 Ascot Road and I am writing about the 2250 Ann Arbor Saline Project. In the meeting report from a planning commission meeting from March 12th 2014, the developer for the project was asked about whether existing trees would be kept, and the response was “*We are trying to preserve as many trees as possible. Oversizing the detention pond will require the removal of some trees to aid in flooding control that would otherwise not need to be removed*”. For the record, as per the current project plan, I have counted that over 150 trees are being removed, including those within the detention pond and those outside that area. In fact, most trees from the property are being removed. It seems clear that this development is not being planned with the goal of preserving trees.

In March 12th 2014 report, the developer also indicated that trees will be planted along the property lines common to existing residence (those bordering Lambeth). However, mature trees are currently abundantly present at the property line, including landmark trees, in the wooded area bordering Lambeth! What is the justification for removing mature trees from the area bordering Lambeth, only to replant new trees that will take three decades or more to mature? Residences that border Lambeth currently have views of the neighboring wooded area. The proposed plan will remove much of this wooded area, bringing a 3/4 story building into full view of these residences and our neighborhood at large. This is a poor and unacceptable alternative for those of us who greatly value the presence of the green/wooded patch, as view it as a valuable neighborhood public resource that should be preserved. I urge the planning commission to look carefully into the issue of preserving the existing trees and wooded area, particularly those bordering Lambeth. Others and I have discussed the issue of tree preservation in at least three of the planning commission meetings, and in at least one previous letter to the planning commission. I have not seen or heard significant responses to these concerns. The planting of new trees does not justify the removal of existing mature trees, and each tree removal ought to be justified.

Does the creation of the Lambeth access road require tree removal, and how many trees would be saved at the Lambeth end if the access road were not created? This adds to the numerous other concerns that have already been raised about this proposed access road. The surface and width of the access road have been changed in the most recent plan, to satisfy the broad “pavement” suggestion from the last meeting, but very little appears to have changed in the overall intent or design.

Finally, some concerns that have been raised previously include safety concerns for children, when the detention ponds fills up during a storm, and issues relating to the potential for increased mosquito-related hazards for the neighborhood.

Thank you for considering these concerns. We hope these and the many other issues that have been raised will be addressed in detail.