

Ethan Parsons

From: jjhen@tommeddy.com
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 3:35 PM
To: Ethan Parsons; Ethan Parsons
Subject: Travel safety on Waldgingfield Road.

Dear Chair Britt and Members of the Planning Board,

I live at 187 County Road in Ipswich which abuts the Julia Bird Reservation Greenbelt property. We moved to Ipswich in 2009, drawn to the rural and peaceful beauty of the area. We ride, bike, walk and cross-country ski by 55 Waldingfield almost daily, accessing the trail system from our property, through the Bird reservation, across Waldingfield Road to Appleton Farms and back.

Waldingfield Road is one of the most scenic and historic roads in Massachusetts. As you know, it is narrow, windy and has numerous blind turns throughout the road's entire length. On several occasions I have had close calls with vehicles travelling well over the posted speed limit of 25 who don't seem to care about pedestrians. One recent example was on a ride last summer when I was crossing Waldingfield Road from 55 Waldingfield to the Prince of Wales drive in Appleton Farms. A landscaper's truck and trailer came flying over the bridge heading east, as I was crossing the road and it narrowly missed hitting me. The clatter of the trailer and its contents and the screeching of brakes from the truck spooked my otherwise very calm horse. He bolted forward, slipping on the pavement into the path of a car coming from the opposite direction who was fortunately able to stop. Although we ultimately emerged unscathed, this terrifying incident along with other similar occurrences along Waldingfield Road, have stayed with me and thus my concern on adding additional traffic to Waldingfield Road.

Although I appreciate Ora's efforts to address residents' concerns, a corporate headquarters just doesn't belong on Waldingfield Road. Ora's traffic consultant predicts, conservatively, that there will be 500 additional car trips per day – that isn't an "insignificant" number. The Special Permit, if approved, runs with the land. Should Ora sell the property what prohibits the next owner from additional expansion resulting in more employees and service vehicles traveling the road? Increasing the traffic volume on this narrow, scenic road is a ticking time bomb. It is only a matter of time before a biker, horse or pedestrian gets hit and seriously injured, if not killed. Public safety must guide the Planning Board's decision on how to best move forward in considering the 55 Waldingfield project, for now and for future generations.

I urge the Planning Board to take a walk down Waldingfield Road to help guide your decision.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Eddy