

Ms. Carolyn Britt, Chair
Planning Board
Town of Ipswich
25 Green Street
Ipswich, MA 01938

February 7, 2022

Dear Chair Britt and Members of the Planning Board,

My name is Phyllis Greene and I live at 50 Mill Road with my husband Michael where we have lived for 28 years. We are both walkers, and I am an equestrian. I travel Waldingfield Road 2-4 times a day.

I have experienced my own "traffic study" on Waldingfield since the early 70s, and I have seen the traffic evolve from the Bird ownership days to the present. There was no speed limit as it was designated a scenic road.

The most beautiful street on the North Shore takes considerable concentration to drive because of its blind spots, curves and inclines. Pedestrians generally walk against the traffic, horses and cyclists with. One glance at the scenery or cell phone can be a deadly mistake as what happened two years ago on Topsfield Road.

Additional traffic over the years has come from Pingree School with their expansions, new sports fields and hockey rink. The many school games are active for 10 months of the year.

N.E. Biolabs and their growing employment play a part in the Waldingfield traffic, as has the Covid pandemic in increasing walking at Appleton Farm and Bradley Palmer.

There are landscape trucks and trailers that park on the road making it just one lane. There are horse and polo vans, many delivery trucks, golf carts, horse and carriages, and school buses.

Waldingfield is surrounded by horse farms, and working agricultural fields. Marini tractors pass by frequently, backing up traffic, especially at the intersections of Waldingfield and Goodhue onto Highland. This demands patience in reaching a destination which is a classic sight in a farming area.

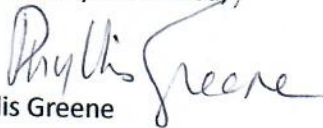
Waldingfield could never handle the proposed increase in traffic projected by Ora, as the current traffic is already congested and dangerous. I believe the traffic issue should have been the number one discussion on the agenda for the Ora project.

Twenty years ago, the 80 acre Scott property directly across Mill Road from us was saved from residential development. Part of that same group wants to and has the financial resources to save 55 Waldingfield. Everyone in the area is trying to protect the River and save the historic landmarks. Once it is gone, it is gone forever.

I hope the Planning Board realizes how important this property is, not only to the residents and neighbors, but to the North Shore in general. Let's keep it safe and protected from a commercial project.

There are over 200 people who have signed on in support of the Friends of Waldingfield to conserve the historical values of the town of Ipswich—a town with a first period home exhibition in the Smithsonian Institute.

Respectfully submitted,


Phyllis Greene