

Mr. Craig Rennie
NHDES Wetlands Bureau
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
PO Box 95, 29 Haven Drive
Concord, NH 03302

January 11, 2021

RE: NHDES File #2020-02239

Dear Mr. Rennie

At our December 21, 2020 meeting the Littleton Conservation Commission reviewed and discussed the above wetlands permit application. At the same time, we reviewed correspondence from neighboring conservation commissions that they have submitted to your office to be included as part of this file.

Since a major part of a New Hampshire conservation commission's responsibility is directed towards protection of wetlands, this letter is a response to that specific impact that the proposed project would have on the proposed project area. At the same time, we acknowledge the fact that the proposed project would seriously impact the local communities in socio-economic and other ways.

Although the actual footprint for the landfill would lie in Dalton, the land parcel involved extends into several adjacent towns, including Littleton. Actually, the entire Alder Brook drainage flows into Littleton (Tax Map 36 Lot 17) from Dalton and merges with the Hatch Brook drainage (Tax Map 36 Lot18), crosses the Bethlehem town line, flows under NH RT 116 and enters the Ammonoosuc River. Map & Lot #'s, town line boundaries....we realize that none of this limits or affects the natural boundaries of wetlands, of surface or subsurface flow.

The wetland impact numbers for this proposed project are seriously large. 16+ acres, 150 feet perennial stream, 1350 feet intermittent stream, five vernal pools. In Littleton, the LCC has dealt with many wetland permits and the fact remains that even with such "tools" as compensatory mitigation, permanently impacted wetlands are destroyed wetlands. And when a project such as a landfill is involved, the destruction can travel far outside the landfill's footprint.

As found on the NHDES website, *“The mission of the NHDES is to help sustain a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire. The protection and wise management of the state’s environment are the main goals of the agency.”*

Also on the website, *“The Water Division (of the NHDES) is tasked with protecting the numerous lakes, ponds and rivers in the state, as well as valuable groundwater.”*

As conservation commissioners and as citizens of New Hampshire, we concur with these mission statements that NHDES has set as their directive.

The Littleton Conservation Commission strongly opposes the approval of the landfill project involving NHDES File #2020-02239 and proposes that NHDES abide by its own mission statement to deny this project.

Thank you,

Tom Alt, Chair
Littleton Conservation Commission
125 Main St.
Littleton, NH 03561