

26 May 2012

Acton Planning Board
Town of Acton
472 Main Street
Acton MA 01720

Dear Members of the Board,

This concerns the June 5 & 6 public Hearings about the proposed Pine Ridge Lane Subdivision at 366 Pope Road. We live at the corner of Spencer Brook Rd. and Pope Rd., just across the road from the property to be developed.

Unfortunately, we are unable to attend either of these hearings. The June 5 Hearing has been scheduled at exactly the time of the 2012 Transit of Venus across the face of the Sun. We will be in California to set up a telescope so our grandchildren can observe this once-in-their-lifetime event. It will be 105 years until the next transit.

Since planetary events cannot be rescheduled, we have asked Susan Mitchell-Hardt to speak for us at this Hearing. Susan is aware of our concerns and we have asked her to raise any issues that are not covered in the course of the Hearing.

The issues most important to us are number of houses and drainage. We understand that there will be a permit for two houses maximum and that this will not change.

The drainage right now is not good. Water runs down the drive, across Pope Road and along the north side of Spencer Brook Road where it washes out the end of our gravel drive. The catch basin on the north corner of 366 Pope is presently too high to handle water from the drive. We would like to see a new catch basin installed at the foot of the drive and connected to the drain emptying into Spencer Brook to the south. There is an item on the Definitive Plan labeled "CB1" but the Post-Development Drainage Map does not list a catch basin at this location whereas it does list the 2 catch basins at the north and south ends of this drainage pipe.

Of lesser importance are bright lights the previous owner had placed along the drive and which were on continuously. My profession is astronomy and this made the star watching from my yard more difficult. I would appreciate it if the new owners could have these lights removed or change the illumination to be less intrusive.

Thank you for your consideration.

 
Sincerely,
Susan and Frederick Seward
158 Spencer Brook Road