

## Frances Portante

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**From:** j colmanley [jcolmanley@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 04, 2015 5:15 PM  
**To:** Conservation Commission; Frances Portante  
**Cc:** George Peabody  
**Subject:** Fw: Building north of the cemetery

FYI.

Fran --- The sender has requested that this email be made part of the record.

Thanks  
Jim

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** George Peabody <george.peabody@gmail.com>  
**To:** j colmanley <jcolmanley@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** glannon@suffolk.edu  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2015 1:57 PM  
**Subject:** Building north of the cemetery

Jim,

I've just heard about the proposal to put an 1100' road into the woods adjacent to the north border of Mt. Hope Cemetery in order to reach several buildable lots further back in the woods. As you know, I walk this area regularly and I know this area well. I'm writing to let you know I oppose this project.

I am a founding board member of Grassroots Wildlife Conservation, a non-profit dedicated to the support of endangered reptiles and amphibians in our area, many of which are endangered because of habitat loss due to development that either disturbs or eliminates features like vernal ponds or simply cuts parcels into smaller pieces and features such as roads and poorly placed culverts become permanent barriers to reptiles, amphibians, and fish. While I have no knowledge about the presence of endangered species in this area, I do know the general area enjoys vernal ponds used by wood frogs and other species.

As those before us recognized, we need open space. The inhabitants of these areas also need open space. They need undisturbed wetlands that connect to brooks and streams without interruption. Given that, mitigation efforts are highly problematic.

Finally, Acton as a community must safeguard the limited open space that remains. This project disproportionately consumes that open land and returns little incremental revenue to the town.

This proposal requires a major road building effort that will impact wetlands and will have a significant impact on a part of the town that should remain undisturbed. Therefore, I ask you to oppose this project.

Unfortunately, due to work and travel commitments, I will be unable to attend Wednesday evening's meeting of the Conservation Commission. I send this message instead and ask you to make my opinion known at the proper time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

George Peabody  
37 Nash Road  
Acton, MA 01720