

MEMORANDUM

To: Barrington Zoning Board of Adjustment
From: Barrington Conservation Commission
Subject: Suzanne Schneider, map 118 lot 54 - request by applicant for
variances from side setbacks
Date: Sept 7, 2015

At its meeting of September 4, the Conservation Commission reviewed the case referenced above.

We are sympathetic to the applicant's need for handicap accessibility, and certainly believe that that need can be accommodated. However, our concern is over the 50% increase in impervious surface that would result from the proposed modifications to the house. Although the plan indicates that erosion/sedimentation controls will be in place during construction, the permanent increase in impervious surface will surely cause extra runoff from the property and into Swains Lake, which is only about 100' from the lot line.

You will recall the recent situation on Nippo Pond, in which a bloom of cyanobacteria rendered the lake unusable for a period of time (I understand that the lake has, for the moment, recovered). The problems on Nippo were most certainly a result of runoff from abutting properties. Although Swains Lake is not in itself as susceptible as Nippo, it also has much more development surrounding it, and with further development and changing climate patterns the chemical input into the lake will surely be increasing. We most assuredly do *not* want to see algal blooms on Swains Lake!

Consequently, we cannot support proposed expansion with the variances to the side setbacks as presented. However, we believe that there are alternatives that could make the plan acceptable. These would involve the use of features that would allow runoff from the impervious surfaces to be infiltrated into the ground and not exit the property. An example of this sort of feature, generally promoted as "Low Impact Development" is the use of rain gardens. We suspect that incorporation of rain gardens or the like into the plan and some diminution of the scale of the expansion could make the plan acceptable to us.

Thank you for the opportunity to let us review these issues that can potentially affect the town's natural resources. If we can be of further service with this project please contact me via the Town Office at 664-5798.

Respectfully,

John Wallace, Chairman