

Dear Rep. Read,

I would like to submit some testimony for today's hearing as I will not be able to attend. I will say I am in support of this commission to find solutions as it does impact my mother's house which is in a life estate on 2 Turner Drive, West Warwick, RI. The house is listed on A.P. 11, LOT 254. This property does have part of Flat Top Pond in the backyard. If you look on a map you will see how Flat Top Pond is connected to Hawkinson Brook which is connected to the Pawtuxet River behind the River's Edge Apartments.

I would like to share some information that may be useful. My parents purchased their home in 1999, and it was not located in a flood zone. The house was built in 1973 as part of a new neighborhood. I do have paperwork on that. A few months after my parents purchased their home, they were called and told they would have to purchase flood insurance. They were very upset and after doing some digging and contacting the federal agency in Boston, they were not in a flood zone.

In 2010 we had the big floods across the state. I have to admit their house did not flood at all, in fact the water only came up to the fence in their backyard which is 15-18 feet from their home. A year after the floods they were notified by their bank they needed to get flood insurance. I have found the files for all of this and would be willing to show them to the commission for future meetings.

I will share that as of today, my parents' house has never flooded but the two houses to their left have flooded a few times. One reason I believe the flooding is occurring would be due to a small culvert where the water in the pond behind their house goes under New London Turnpike to the second half of Flat Top Pond is too small and needs to be reassessed.

I close this testimony to inform you that I currently live on 1 Cross Bow Lane and Hawkinson Brook runs behind my house. I am very high up but have noticed due to some major construction since 2013 the brook seems to be getting wider. Right now, in my area there are two future housing developments that have been on DEM's wetlands database and I am concerned that disturbing the two sites could impact some of the properties in my neighborhood, my parents' house and cause more flooding with the Pawtuxet River. I understand that the housing bills are needed, I just hope any wetlands issues are not modified to where more flooding could occur.

Thank you,

Roger Richards Jr.

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