

Dear Conservation Committee,

My name is Kim Franco, and I live at 115 Washington street, Unit B, a home that is on the abutters list for 2 Mariner Way.

I received notice that the owners of 2 Mariner Way have filed a request for permission to reconfigure their existing building plan to remove the approved garage and install a swimming pool. This pool was not in the originally approved plan that was submitted by the previous owner of the lot. I strongly oppose the applicants request to change their plan, a change that will result in many negative impacts to the surrounding community.

1. Our home is currently in an existing flood zone and the construction of three additional homes in this area is going to have a significant impact on the existing water table and management of excess water during both natural and unnatural events. The reduction in open land severely inhibits the natural percolation and absorption of water. Adding a swimming pool would only further eliminate necessary below grade area for water absorption. While the pool being considered will be "built into the deck" it is by no means a part of the house. The reconfiguration is unclear as to how deep the pool will be, but regardless, any depth is an intrusion to the current ecosystem. There will simply be less area for water to reabsorb which will increase the existing amount of flooding that already occurs.

2. Since the issue of flooding has already been established in this area it is inevitable that the pool itself will indeed overflow. Regardless of the type of water used in the pool, there will likely be chemicals that would have harmful effects on the surrounding vulnerable wetlands, plants, and animals in the vicinity. These chemicals will ultimately reach the Duck Pond, the Harbor, and all surrounding areas.

I urge The Conservation Commission to reject the request to build a pool at 2 Mariners Way. It was not in the originally approved plan which I am sure was studied at great length during the original approval process. This area of the island is unique and rare. It is defined by the wetlands, the entrance to the Harbor, the Creeks and the magnificent Duck Pond, which has become iconic. I know great effort and expense has gone into removing invasive species from the pond. We do not need to introduce another threat to the surrounding ecosystem. The increase in flood potential due to loss of ground cover and the potential installation of forced, unnatural and unnecessary bodies of water do not benefit our community. Preventing a pool at 2 Mariner Way, and also 4 and 6 Mariner Way is a 100% guarantee there will be no additional stress to the surrounding natural habitat.

I oppose the addition of a pool at 2 Mariner Way.

I ask that you share this letter with the commissioners in advance of the public hearing scheduled for 5:00 PM ET on Thursday April 27th, 2023.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Kim Franco
115 Washington St. Unit B
Nantucket, MA 02554

