Date: July 19, 2018
To: Maren Toohill, Littleton Planning Board
From: Corey Godfrey, Littleton Water Department
RE: Jones Meadow Senior Residential Development

Hello Maren,

Representing the interests of both the Littleton Water Department and Littleton Clean Lakes Committee, I provide the following comments on the Jones Meadow Senior Residential Development for the Planning Board’s review and consideration.

The Jones Meadow Senior Residential Development is not within the Zone II of our Spectacle Pond Well (or any other public water supply well in Littleton or Ayer), not within any high yielding aquifer, and not within the Town’s Aquifer Protection Zoning District. It is, of course, in the same watershed as our Spectacle Pond well and therefore within the Town’s Water Resource Zoning District. Since this requires compliance with the Massachusetts Stormwater Standards and the Town’s Low Impact Development Best Management Practices Manual (which was developed under the direction of the Water Department), LWD is confident that development of this site will not pose any significant threat to Littleton’s drinking water supply.

Separate from the issue of drinking water supply, the Clean Lakes Committee continuously evaluates the overall health of all surface water bodies in Littleton, including through routine water quality monitoring of both Spectacle Pond and all of its tributaries. While this monitoring has shown that Spectacle Pond tends to have low dissolved oxygen levels in the late summer, which can be harmful to fish and other aquatic life, this is primarily the result of organic enrichment (decaying plant matter within the lake) from years’ past, not current nutrient inputs from the watershed (as demonstrated by the fact that nitrate and phosphorus concentrations in Spectacle Pond are not detectable by standard laboratory methods and concentrations in tributaries to the pond are well below any level of concern). By following current Title V and Board of Health requirements, and the Massachusetts Stormwater Standards and Littleton’s Low Impact Development Best Management Practices Manual, described above, as well as the applicant’s proposed 100% infiltration of all stormwater runoff from the site, there is no reason to suspect that development of this site will result in increased nutrient loading from the watershed.

Please let me know if you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Regards,

Corey Godfrey
Environmental Analyst
Littleton Water Department and Clean Lakes Committee