

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2021 1:09 PM
To: Barbara Driscoll
Cc: Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: Comments on Town Council May 5, 2021 meeting Agenda Item #17 Approving the Eastwood Lake Subwatershed Study Report and Recommendations.

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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From: Barbara Driscoll [mailto:btdriscoll@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Cc: Amy Harvey <aharvey@townofchapelhill.org>; Jeanette Bench <jeanettebench82@gmail.com>
Subject: Comments on Town Council May 5, 2021 meeting Agenda Item #17 Approving the Eastwood Lake Subwatershed Study Report and Recommendations.

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Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I am writing regarding the Eastwood Lake Subwatershed Study Report and Recommendations. After reviewing the document and staff recommendations, I would like to express some concerns and suggestions:

1) The diagram on floodplain storage is especially concerning after review the results in the Booker Creek Basin. I would recommend that for any areas where similar "storage" is designed that the surrounding public be provided with the complete picture of what this area would look like. The very nice design with the grown trees would be possibly 20-30 years down the road, and not the immediate effect. Removal of trees should be a last resort as they stabilize the slope and also reduce runoff while creating habitat for wildlife. Wholesale clearing and grading of streambeds is extremely invasive. Has there been an environmental evaluation of the impact on the stream biota in these areas?

2) The town could and should develop a way to incentivize residents to reduce lawn (turf) along the lake and in the watershed. Lawns of green grass increase water run off even during minor rain events. Rather, people should be rewarded for taking lawn out of service and putting in native raingarden plants which would absorb more water over time. The town is potentially going to spend a lot of money on ways to structurally address potential flooding without looking at ways to regularly decrease the amount of runoff.

3) Evaluation should be done of those residents who indicated they were impacted by flooding and the timing and reoccurrence of the flooding. Did the flooding occur after a hurricane or extreme rain event? Does it occur during any rain event? There should be more evaluation to determine is this truly an on-going issue.

4) As a partner in the Lower Booker Creek Adopt-a-trail group and having spent hundreds of hours removing invasive plants and tending plantings, I would reject any similar attempt at "floodplain storage" on the Lower Booker Creek Trail as was done in the Booker Creek basin.

Thank you for consideration of this comments.

Barbara Driscoll
Chapel Hill, NC USA

Do something nice for the earth every day!