

September 24, 2025

Dear Chapel Hill Town Council,

I speak on behalf of myself and other residents of the Briarcliff and Ridgefield Park neighborhoods who were affected by the flooding during Tropical Storm Chantal on July 6, 2025.

We are requesting the assistance of the town staff in understanding the causes of flooding in our neighborhoods. Our most immediate questions concern the Pinehurst Road Bridge, which forms a substantial dam where it crosses the Little Creek floodplain. From FEMA maps (attached), it appears that the bridge reduces the width of the floodplain at that location by approximately 75%. We feel it is likely that this flow constriction increased water levels behind the dam, i.e. in our homes.

We have a set of questions below that the town engineering staff should be able to answer using the publicly available flood models that FEMA used to produce the flood maps. We are hoping that staff will be able to conduct some brief analysis to address these questions, and we would like a follow up meeting to discuss the results.

- How is the floodplain constriction at Pinehurst Rd affecting flooding between Fordham and Pinehurst?
- Without that constriction, how many houses are removed from the 500 year floodplain?
- Without that constriction, how many houses would have been spared from flooding during TS Chantal?

We look forward to working with you to understand this issue, and we hope that the requested analysis will open a consistent line of communication between us and the town.

All the best,

Christopher Esposito
1406 Brigham Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
cresposito@gmail.com
732-485-6358

