

Mayor,

Yesterday there was a “Northern Highlands Daily Voice” article concerning the Apple Ridge project. The article indicated an Upper Saddle River resident received a text message from a NJDEP representative indicating “a stop work order was made”. The inference was either a county or state official recently issued this directive.

In fact, the only Stop Work Order our office is aware of for the project was contained in a letter issued on January 13, 2018 by James J. Dougherty, Director of Code Enforcement for the Borough of Upper Saddle River. It was issued via registered mail and was also hand delivered to the onsite contractor.

A previous article in this same publication incorrectly reported Bergen County officials issued a directive to stop any pumping on the property which may resulting in the discharge of water into the Pleasant Brook. In fact, no such directive was received from any county official. On April 20, 2018 our office met with the developer’s representatives at the site and were informed prior pumping operations has ceased as of 9:30 AM that day. The pumping of a temporary detention basin occurred following a significant storm which hit the area on April 15-16, 2018. We directed the contractor to curtail any further pumping until we could further review these operations with the appropriate county and state officials. The publication appears to incorrectly interpret our directive concerning the weekend pumping as a second stop work order.

Both the NJ State Soil Conservation Engineer and the Bergen County Soil Conservation District have been consulted throughout the tenure of this project. These agencies were again consulted on April 23, 2018 and confirmed pumping was a permitted activity so long as water filter controls were utilized prior to discharge to the Please Brook. The measures have been in place during all pumping operation. Filtering is required to significantly reduce the amount of sediment entering the waterways.

Both of the previously mentioned articles incorrectly link the completed environmental remediation onsite to the current soil stabilization issues being addressed. The environmental remediation was completed as of December 22, 2018. Accordingly, the migration of wind or water borne soil from the site is also a soil stabilization issue. NJ State regulations currently recognize this site as being suitable for unrestricted residential use.

Our office has been providing construction inspection services as the Borough’s representative since the inception of this project. Our responsibilities include insuring the construction activities are in accordance with local, county and state approvals for the project. Our responsibilities also include protecting the health, safety and welfare of the general public and we take them very seriously. We have, and will continue to, coordinate extensively with all appropriate local, county and state regulatory and enforcement agencies in connection with the execution of these duties.

Thank you

Kevin J. Boswell, P.E.

