

**Jason Sullivan**

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**From:** Lynn Richardson [lynn.richardson@ncmail.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2007 11:59 AM  
**To:** Jason Sullivan  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on Norwood Felton Subdivision

**From:** Don Knowles [mailto:thedonknowles@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 22, 2007 10:01 PM  
**To:** lynn.richardson@ncmail.net  
**Cc:** don knowles; becky knowles  
**Subject:** Comments on Norwood Felton Subdivision

Dear Lynn:

Thanks for the time on the phone today. Here is the letter I mentioned I would send.

Becky and I are from Durham. We left this area in 1972 and moved around the country with our work. We retired in 2003 and built a house on Lamont Norwood. We do not object to the proposed development but we do have a few suggestions and questions.

My wife Becky and I came to the Planning Board meeting June 5 because we are interested in the Norwood Felton Subdivision, as it borders on our property. It had been scheduled for sketch approval at the June 5 meeting. However, as the agenda was deemed too full, discussion on the Norwood Felton Subdivision was postponed to the next meeting, which I understand will be on July 10.

We are not fully aware of the implications of postponing discussion of the agenda item. I think this means less opportunity for public comment, or at least fewer opportunities for public comment. Hopefully the remaining time will be sufficient for a full airing of issues, if appropriate.

We do have a few topics and suggestions.

I hope the Board looks carefully at the subdivision implications for the Cape Fear Shiner, listed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered (see <http://www.fws.gov/nc-es/fish/cfshiner.html>).

I understand that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service may update the location surveys and the Shiner's recovery plan (see [http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plans/2006/060313.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plans/2006/060313.pdf)) in the next year or so. It may be that the new surveys will provide additional information as to whether the Shiner is present in Wilkerson Creek, or the near reaches of the Haw. The species was listed and critical habitat designated back in 1987 and the recovery plan was issued in 1988. The Recovery Plan makes clear that siltation is thought to be a significant threat, and native vegetation buffers are a suggested way to reduce the threat.

The N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission has recently recommended a 200 foot buffer on each side of perennial streams (Wilkerson Creek) and a 100 foot buffer on each side of intermittent streams for the proposed subdivision (including Cotton Spring Branch). The Commission has also recommended controls for pesticide and herbicide usage within 200 feet of the perennial Wilkerson Creek. I hope the Planning Board and applicant work towards consistency between conservation recommendations proposed for the Shiner and subdivision buffers; that pesticide and herbicide application controls are addressed; and that special attention is paid to containing siltation during construction. As an aside, I would commend the applicant for proposing riparian buffers in excess of County requirements.

On a different topic, North Carolina has designated the Loggerhead Shrike as a North Carolina Species of Special Concern (see [http://www.ncwildlife.org/pg07\\_WildlifeSpeciesCon/Profiles/shrikelloggerhead.pdf](http://www.ncwildlife.org/pg07_WildlifeSpeciesCon/Profiles/shrikelloggerhead.pdf)). It is

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listed as endangered in Virginia. It appears that loss of habitat (in particular shrubs and other perches) is a contributing factor to the Shrike's decline. I hope the Board and developers work with the N. C. Wildlife Commission and others to see if there are opportunities to enhance habitat conditions for the Shrike as the development is planned in more detail.

I would mention a few other items. I believe there is a fresh water spring on lot 36. Water appears to drain from the spring down slope to Cotton Spring Branch. It may be that the spring is within the proposed riparian buffer but if not it may be worth looking to see if it should be protected as a wetland.

I also think there is evidence of an earthen dam slightly below the confluence of Cotton Spring Branch and Wilkerson Creek. I have no idea its age—it may have been associated with a timbering operation in the past several decades. But I think it would be worth a look by a knowledgeable person. I would not expect this to have any impact on the subdivision but it seems like it would be a neat way to tie current landowners to prior residents on Chatham County.

Thanks for making these comments available to the board members and applicant. We may be able to come to the next meeting and if so we will see you then.

Regards--

Don Knowles  
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