

February 8, 2022

Dear Members of the Westfield Planning Board,

I appreciate that Westfield, like many communities, is dealing with the issue of satisfying its affordable housing obligation. As you know, Cranford faced same issue and reached an agreement with Fair Share Housing Council and we will be moving ahead with redevelopment projects that include affordable residential units. I know that meeting these housing obligations while minimizing impacts to our communities are not easy decisions.

Developing the Williams Nursery adjacent to Lenape Park is cause for concern to Cranford residents because of the potential to cause more flooding for homeowners in the Northeast area of our town. This evening, I am asking the Westfield Planning Board to require the developer to do more on stormwater management and flood mitigation than just replicating how the site currently functions.

Cranford is currently requiring the developer of the South and Chestnut project to go above and beyond our standards because the project is in an area that experiences flash flooding. We expect the developer to do more.

In the spirit of cooperation between our towns, I hope the Planning Board will seriously consider the impact this project could have on Cranford residents and require the developer to meet a higher standard.

Best,
Kathleen Miller Prunty
Mayor of Cranford