

DRI 708 - 19 Mill Square Road Demolition
Additional Staff Comments on Climate Change Resilience
8/26/21

Exterior Hardscape – Drainage and Landscaping

This project proposes a very large amount of exterior hardscape – an impervious patio, impervious stone steps and impervious parking spaces. In addition, this site is located on a high, steep slope, where water runs onto East Chop Drive. In rain and storm events all these surfaces will contribute to erosion and increased storm water runoff onto East Chop Drive.

This is a climate change-related concern because we are experiencing increased precipitation. According to the Cape Cod Commissions' Climate Action Plan, in the United States, "the Northeast has seen the most dramatic increase in intensity of rainfall events," a trend that is expected to continue. Furthermore, "between 1958 and 2010 the Northeast saw more than a 70% increase in the amount of precipitation falling in very heavy events."

In light of this it is important for natural landscapes to be preserved and enhanced. Natural landscapes absorb storm and rainwater, thus helping control erosion and runoff. Natural landscapes also allow the water to percolate into our sole source aquifer, our drinking water, rather than polluting our ponds, harbors, salt marshes and beaches.

Energy – propane for cooking

The entire structure will be powered by electricity except for the use of propane for cooking. Propane is a fossil fuel. In their 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution, the Commissioners voted to support the goal of eliminating the Island's reliance on fossil fuels. Construction of a new dwelling is a perfect opportunity to require that all energy sources are capable of being generated from a renewable source.