

**PUBLIC COMMENT to MEPA from
SUDBURY ASSABET CONCORD WILD & SCENIC RIVER STEWARDSHIP
(SuAsCoW&S River Stewardship)**

From: Marlies Henderson <marlies.henderson@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 5:39 PM

To: alexander.strysky@mass.gov

Cc: Kati Winchell <kati@saveourheritage.com>; Brian Henderson <alight4mypath@live.com>; LeVangie, Duane (DEP) <duane.levangie@state.ma.us>; mdavis@burlington.org

Subject: Hanscom North Airfield Development

Hi Alexander,

Today, as a member on the SuAsCo W&S River Stewardship Council (representing Billerica), I received - with delay - an email which mentions a deadline for public comment on February 14, noting that the project might affect the Sudbury and Concord Rivers and Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge. However, the Shawsheen River is also near and dear to me.

Hanscom Airport was built on the meadows that were the headwaters of the **Shawsheen River**. I reviewed the hyperlinked documentation. The proposal lists "Shawsheen" once, under watershed, but doesn't mention the Shawsheen River - only its tributary Elm Brook. The plans show the Shawsheen River as an unnamed blue line: I attached a screenshot of their map, marking the Shawsheen River with a red arrow, but don't take my word for it: You can google Hanscom Airport and you will find that the Shawsheen River is substantially more significant than Elm Brook. I cc'd the President of the Shawsheen River Watershed Association.

If the project moves forward, it will almost double impervious surface, which (especially with climate change and increased extreme weather conditions) will supersize the flood wave north through Bedford, to Billerica, Wilmington, Tewksbury, Andover, to the Merrimack at the City of Lawrence. **Flooding** is an issue already! The applicant should at least be mandated to mitigate for the flood wave by building a more efficient bridge for Rte 3A, which already floods.

Secondly, the proposal denies affecting water supplies, but: The Town of Burlington relies heavily on the Shawsheen River for its **drinking water supply**: Except under extreme drought conditions, contrary to the recent past, Burlington almost daily pumps up to 8 MGD river water five miles from Billerica to the Burlington Mill Pond water reservoir. It used to be a strictly auxiliary emergency source! I cc'd Duane Levangie to alert him as your colleague with DEP, as well as Matt Davis, Water & Sewer Superintendent for Burlington, MA.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope you will find a way to include this email in the MEPA Public Comments.

Marlies

-- Marlies Henderson, CIG marliesoutdoors.com

"People protect what they love" (Jacques Yves Cousteau)