

Shelby C. Driscoll

145 Highland Cliff Road
Windham, Maine 04062
Shelby.c.driscoll@gmail.com

June 7, 2026

Windham Planning Board
8 School Road
Windham, Maine 04062

Dear Members of the Windham Planning Board,

As you can probably assume from my address, I am contacting you regarding the future subdivision of Highland Cliff Estates LLC, the former home of Walter and Sylvia Johnson at 180 Highland Cliff Road.

By way of introduction, my husband and I are both native Maine, and have lived in Windham for 55 years, 50 of them on the Highland Cliff Road.

I walk both Highland Cliff and Montgomery Roads almost every day. I have done so regularly for 25 years. Highland Cliff has MANY people who walk it daily, especially with their dogs. The rural nature of our road has been a real draw for those of us who choose to live here.

We have NO sidewalks on our road, and from the Advent Church to the corner of Al Weber, there are barely any shoulders beyond the tar. In several spots the ditches are 4 1/2 feet deep with crumbling dirt. In the winter I must walk on the tar itself as with plowing there is nowhere else to go.

Highland Cliff is a side road that was never "built" for modern traffic. There have been many accidents over the years that have only once resulted in death, that I know of. I don't wish to be maimed or killed as another local woman was a couple of years ago just by walking in my own neighborhood. Neighbors have had hedges taken out and mailboxes as well by vehicular traffic. The corner that overlooks the prison is perpetually a spot where people go off the road in all seasons. My husband has helped out many people over the years. Two days before my daughter's wedding at our house I thought I was hallucinating as a car flew off the corner, only yards from me, so far into the woods that there was no evidence of anything going into it. A

local developer had a dump truck overturn there and spill its load. The contractor brought in his own equipment and took care of the issue without ever contacting the police! Dozens of trucks carrying heavy loads went up and down the the road daily during the construction at Maysens Road and The Land of Nod Road. An elderly woman walking at the same "Prison" corner was blown over into the riprap by a gust formed by a big truck going by and rescue had to be called! Until last year we owned the plot of land at the head of the Al Weber Road where it intersects with Highland Cliff and even though we lined the front with boulders, on 3 occasions that we are aware of vehicles went through into the field behind it.

We raised our children here in a part of town with no amenities like side walks, water, sewage, or parks. They all went to aging schools. What we had was a safe, rural neighborhood. Highland Cliff is no longer that.

On a Saturday last fall I was working in my garden on Highland Cliff. So much traffic went by that I started counting. 150 cars went by in one and a half hours.

Last month when the collision on 302 occurred with the school bus and the SUV, hundreds of vehicles were rerouted onto our road. These people had no idea where they were going, only that they were late for work. They were going 50 and 60 miles an hour. They would see the DEAD END sign for Highland Cliff Extension, slam on their brakes and use my daughter's circular drive to turn around in until her horrified husband used their trash barrels to stop them and made a Private Drive No U Turn sign. I enticed her back "Home" from Boston to have this happen? The traffic was backed up for a mile for HOURS for those cars to get out onto the River Road. When did the traffic officers come?

Based on the traffic and condition alone of this road I object to the size of the proposed development. 27 wells and 27 septic systems beside an organic vegetable farm? Really? No impact studies? Do these homes include the moderate priced housing that is driving our state's push for building?

I plan to attend the meeting on June 8 and truly hope that you are open to evaluating our valid concerns.

Shelby Driscoll

Sincerely yours,

Sender Name