

September 11, 2008

Anthony Petrucelli, Chair  
Westfield Planning Board  
City Hall  
59 Court Street  
Westfield, MA 01085

Reference: Russian Evangelical Baptist Church, 866 North Road, Westfield

Dear Mr. Petrucelli:

I am writing you on behalf of the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) to provide our comments regarding the Special Permit application for the 15,000 square foot addition and new parking lot for the Russian Evangelical Baptist Church at 866 North Road. BAPAC is composed of representatives from the four jurisdictions in which the Barnes Aquifer is located. The committee was created in 1989 to address developments of regional impact that are proposed within the aquifer to ensure that drinking water resources remain safe for the more-than 60,000 people that it serves.

Plans for the proposed project were presented to BAPAC at their September 11, 2008 meeting by Dave Bean of D.L. Bean Inc. The stormwater management plan appears to meet all of BAPAC's requirements for pretreatment and infiltration of stormwater. The "Emergency Shut Off" sign at the gate valve should be in English and Russian.

Last, the detention basin essentially creates a ridge adjacent to Long Pond. Soils in this area are typically sandy and well-drained. BAPAC is concerned that these well-draining conditions could create groundwater piping through the wall of the detention basin, transporting water in the direction of the pond. Such a condition would make the basin less effective for groundwater infiltration and, under extreme storm events, could cause failure of the detention basin wall and a land slide. Therefore, BAPAC recommends that the project engineer evaluate the potential for these conditions and make changes as needed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Michael Czerwiec, Vice-Chair

cc: D.L. Bean, Inc. 40 School Street, Westfield, MA 01085