



October 20, 2021

Town of Canton Planning and Zoning Board
4 Market Street
Collinsville, CT 06019

Re: File 156: Application 2118

Dear Chairman Thiesse, Planning and Zoning Commissioners, and Town Planner Pade,

We ask that you **please deny Application 2118 that seeks to modify the Farmington River Overlay District (FRPOD) protections and regulatory map.**

The commission should have to look no further than the language of its own town ordinances as to why the FRPOD should be upheld as is:

59.5 Purpose and Objective: The Farmington River is a major geographic feature of the Town calling for wise use, conservation and development of its resources in a way that preserves its special qualities for Canton and the larger watershed community.

59.5.1 It is the purpose of the FRPO District to promote the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private loss due to excessive or insensitive use of the river corridor.

The beautiful Farmington River and the valley that it has carved for centuries has attracted residents, businesses and tourist to make Collinsville the quaint, popular destination that it is today. It is a mecca for outdoor enthusiast who love to be in, on or near this gorgeous stretch of river. Ensuring that it can grow to accommodate this desirability without harming the river can be a challenge – but it can be done. **It is imperative that the added layer of protection the FRPOD offers, in addition to the good work of the Inland, Wetlands, and Watercourses Agency (IWWA), be maintained.**

The districts are intended to minimize the amount of activity within 100 feet of the river. Maintaining this buffer offers multitude of ecosystem services that will **safeguard river health and help this community be more resilient to climate change.** Erosion control, flood protection, and pollution prevention are just a few benefits that can quickly and easily be lost to development that does not take river health into consideration. Maintaining vital ecosystem services are essential for the environmental and economic health of the river in the Collinsville area as well as downstream neighbors that also benefit from the river as a resource.

We strongly encourage the commission to reject any modification to the Farmington River Overlay District. This added protection will ensure that Collinsville will remain a destination for generations to come and ensure that the entire region can benefit from the resource by protecting water quality for downstream neighbors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alicea Charamut', written in a cursive style.

Alicea Charamut
Executive Director

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of the state's rivers, aquifers and other natural waters.