

My Name is Amy Brubaker and I am a resident of Blue Hill as well as an abutting neighbor of the proposed subdivision or as we like to call it Kermit Allen's Blueberry Hill. I want to thank the planning board for giving me a chance to speak to the proposed project. I really appreciate that you all volunteer your time in order to carefully consider and have an impact on what our town will look like going into the future.

While there are a lot of deeply concerning aspects to the proposed subdivision of this iconic property, as a wildlife photographer I will speak to what I know best: wildlife habitat. Within Chapter 187 of the Maine State Planning and Land Use Regulation it is stated that, **“Proposed subdivisions should not have an adverse effect on significant wildlife habitat Identified by the department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the municipality.”** During the years that I have lived here I have, with the Allen's permission to walk on the site, documented over thirty uncommon and/or rare birds and mammals that have made this property their home or part of their habitat.

At the top of the food chain are the Birds of Prey. Along with the uncommon Red-tailed, Coopers and Sharp-shinned hawks I've photographed the even less common Merlin, Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, and Northern Shrike as well as our beloved nesting Eagle pair that have raised their young just offshore of the proposed blasting and construction site for the past twenty years.

Just down hill from the proposed NINE housing sites are duck and shorebird species including the Barrow's Goldeneye, which is listed as a species of special concern by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, as well as uncommon Hooded Mergansers, Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teals, and at least six other duck species that I've documented. Along with the Great Blue Herons and Great and Snowy Egrets that fish in the Salt Pond, there are several uncommon shorebirds including Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers. I even once documented a vagrant Sand Hill Crane wandering happily though the blueberry barren.

There are Belted kingfishers who raise their young in holes built into the shoreline banks as well as Common Mergansers who nest every year in the dead tree cavities along Carleton Stream. And, of course, dozens of warblers and other small sparrows, finches, larks, and blackbirds, many uncommon or rare, who count on this habitat to breed in or pass through on their yearly migrations. I've also seen and documented Bobcats, Black Bear, Fox dens with kits, and river dwellers such as Mink and Otters in Carleton Stream throughout the year. This long list does not even touch on the marine life, fish, mussels, clams, and elvers that the fishing and aquaculture folks will hopefully address or the plant life that I've only begun to get to know.

Rather than listen to me continue to carry on about my passion for the irreplaceable natural value of this property, you can check out the handout I've distributed which lists the uncommon and rare species that I've witnessed and photographed and also a link to my slideshow. I think the photos capture the unique natural beauty of this property and what would be lost if it were overdeveloped.

Another case in point is this Down East Books "Maine, a View From Above" by Charles Fell which highlights an aerial view of the blueberry hill in question. Clearly Allen's Blueberry Hill is seen as iconic throughout Maine, not just by those of us who live in Blue Hill.

Our wildlife is integral to what makes Blue Hill such a beloved place to live. Even when sitting quietly camouflaged for hours, one false move and the bird or fox or hawk that I'm trying to photograph flushes from the area. Imagine what the blasting, construction, and the parade of truck after truck for two, three, or more years to put up NINE houses would do to the habitat of these creatures.

I ask you to please consider a modified plan with say 2 to 4 house lots so that some of this precious habitat can be maintained for the wildlife that currently calls it home.

Thank You,
Amy Brubaker
406 Salt Pond Road
Blue Hill

Documented Rare and Uncommon species on or surrounding the Allen Blueberry Field. By no means comprehensive, but based on my observations and documentation over the past 4 years.

Mammals

Bobcat
Coyote
Black Bear
Mink
River Otter
Fox (breeding with kits)

Ducks

Barrows Goldeneye (rare and seen annually)
Wood Duck (rare)
Common Goldeneye
Hooded merganser
Common Merganser (nesting)
Shovelers
Green-winged teal (rare)

Birds of Prey

Bald Eagle (nesting just offshore)
Goshawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk

Northern Harrier

Barred Owl

Falcons

Merlin (rare)
Kestrel (rare)

Others

Northern Shrike (rare)
Eastern Kingbird (rare)
Belted Kingfisher (nesting)
Yellow-bellied sap-sucker

Shorebirds and waders and Herons

Sandhill Crane
Great Egret
Black-bellied plover
Semipalmated plover
Spotted sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs

Warblers/ Larks

American Redstart
Blackburnian Warbler
Black-throated Blue
Horned Lark

Amy Brubaker's images of the Blueberry Hill and Salt Pond habitat can be seen at:

<https://shorturl.at/kovzV>