

**From:** Don Serotta  
**To:** Melissa Foote  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comments: Oak Woods Subdivision, section 15, block 1, lot 27.41.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:16:01 PM

---

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Clifton Patrick <historian@thetownofchester.org>  
**Date:** March 15, 2022 at 1:01:15 PM EDT  
**To:** Don Serotta <dserotta@thetownofchester.org>  
**Subject:** Comments: Oak Woods Subdivision, section 15, block 1, lot 27.41.

Dear Chairman Serotta and Planning Board Members,

Upon reading the applicant's Short Environmental Assessment Form, I was surprised that the required descriptive explanations were left blank. Specifically for questions:

- 9. on state energy code requirements;
- 10. Water supply;
- 11. Wastewater.

---

The "Existing Conditions" drawing, 3 of 10, shows existing stone walls in the proposed lots 2, 3, 4, and the proposed 14.26± acre Conservation Area. Some of the drawings do not depict these walls on the proposed lots, but the Utility and Grading Sheet, 5 of 10, show them crossing the driveways and septic fields for Lots 3 & 4, while the Erosion Control Plan shows the same, and also passing through the dwelling on Lot 4!

These walls obviously date from earlier times and likely align with the boundaries of former farm fields and/or former property lines. Minimizing the disturbance to these structures is commendable in maintaining the traditional landscape, a reminder of our region's farming history, and our former rural nature.

I respectfully request that the impact on these existing structures be more clearly specified on these plans to the Board's satisfaction.

---

I was contacted by a member of the community who asked that I inform the Planning Board about the "Salem Village of Chester" historical marker near this project on Camp Monroe Rd.

Salem was an unincorporated hamlet centered around the Methodist Episcopal Church that was located near the base of Camp Monore Road, as shown on the attached 1875 map. Former Town of Chester Supervisor and Historian, Clark Holbert stated that Salem predated the formal creation of the Town of Chester (March 22, 1845). This farming community was composed of the families in the area, many of them being from the Stevens clan. No record of commerce or industries here, aside from farming. Holbert stated that about the turn-of-the-century the hamlet had dissolved and, reputedly, the graves from the Salem Cemetery were moved to the Monroe Cemetery. The Methodist Episcopal Church does not appear on the 1903 Atlas of Orange County.

Sincerely,  
Clifton Patrick  
Town of Chester Historian  
119 Brookside Ave.  
Chester, County of Orange  
New York 10918

direct phone/fax 845-469-7645  
[chester-ny.gov/town-departments/historian/](http://chester-ny.gov/town-departments/historian/)



