

**From:** Gordon Springate g\_springate@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Wilton ZBA Case 2025031102 - Special exception under section 11.4(b) & 11.3 of the Wilton Zoning Ordinance  
**Date:** April 7, 2025 at 2:11 PM  
**To:** landuse@wiltonnh.gov, Neil.Faiman@wiltonzba.org, wiltonaba@wiltonzba.org

GS

Wilton ZBA,

My property is ~1/2 mile upstream of the proposed bridge across the "Old County Farm Brook" (as indicated on my property deed). This is the same waterway as "Mill Brook" in the application. The proposal in the application contains damaging changes to the wetlands. I oppose the design of the nature trail as it pertains to the bridge and wetlands area.

As the purpose of this proposed change is to develop a nature trail, so too then must the changes be only for that purpose. By definition a nature trail is for nature; people and the animals which inhabit this part of the State of New Hampshire. A nature trail is not for any other purpose and certainly not for mechanized vehicles of any type, including bicycles.

The waterway is within a State of New Hampshire wildlife corridor. Moose, deer, and bears, as well as many other species, cross the brook in this part of the valley. As a wildlife corridor, this valley is a resource that should be protected; not developed.

I am not opposed to a crossing of the wetlands as long as the following is met:

- The nature trail bridge is constructed of wood; no steel or concrete across the wetlands.
- The nature trail bridge is a maximum 4 feet in width.
- The nature trail bridge has no, as in zero, substructure in the wetlands.
  - This means explicitly no foreign materials (e.g., fill) or supports are to be placed in the wetlands.
- The nature trail bridge has no raised superstructure of any type.
  - Both a beam-type and arch-type (as long as no foundations are in the wetlands) bridge meet this requirement.
- The nature trail bridge has no railings as these do not integrate with the environment; and certainly, animals do not need them.
- The nature trail bridge may never be painted or treated chemically in any manner. The color of the wood may not be altered in any way.

Such a nature trail bridge as described here is simple to construct and will integrate nicely with the natural environment and cause no harm to the wetlands.

I urge the ZBA to take these recommendations into account in their deliberations.

Sincerely,

Gordon Springate

10 Stagecoach Rd