

## John Long

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**From:** Tori Antonino <toriantonino@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 12, 2018 12:44 AM  
**To:** COS-Website-Planning  
**Cc:** City Clerk Contact; Peter Forcellese; Renée Scott  
**Subject:** Re: In support of Mark Niedergang's Proposed Ordinance for Slope Protection, agenda item 206489

I wanted to add this article about slope erosion control with native plants. It's for a California ecosystem, but the principles remain the same.

<http://www.laspilitas.com/garden/howto/slope.html>

On Oct 11, 2018, at 09:40 PM, Tori Antonino <[toriantonino@me.com](mailto:toriantonino@me.com)> wrote:

To the Aldermen, the city and the Planning Board,

I support Aldermen Mark Niedergang's amendment

**Proposing a Zoning Ordinance amendment for Slope Protection to require a Special Permit for developments on steeply sloped parcels, agenda item 206489 in Land Use Committee.**

I see this amendment as accomplishing several of our city goals at the same time. Our need to manage storm water, increase biodiversity, add green space, reel in climate change and make our neighborhoods more vibrant and livable are all addressed in this amendment. Building a concrete retaining wall is more expensive than restoring the landscape, is less attractive, provides no benefit to air quality, ecosystem services, sequestering of carbon, or our physical and mental health.

Adding native tree, shrubbery, and herbaceous plants (and it needs to be native to be most effective in controlling erosion) is the best most economical way to manage a steep slope. In a city that lacks green space, and has a severe storm water management problem, we no longer have the luxury of viewing private property as something an owner can do what with. Because we live so densely and have historically set aside little of our city land to open and green space, private property accounts for the majority of it. Each bit of land that we can use towards increasing our green spaces is a necessity in addressing the needs of climate change resilience.

I would like that property owners who find themselves in this situation to be assisted in adhering to this amendment. Be it a tax break, or assistance in design, or the city looking into a grant that incentivizes property owners to control erosion with native plantings.

Green and Open Somerville also supports this amendment and looks forward to working with the city, the aldermen, and the neighbors to get this passed so that erosion control on these steep slopes will benefit the owners and the community.

Thank you,

Tori Antonino

Endorsed by Renee Scott, David Falk of Garden in the Woods, and Green and Open Somerville