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Maureen Fitzgerald, Environmental Planner
Town of Waterford
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

September 26, 2023

RE: INLAND WETLAND SOILS AND WATERCOURSES INVESTIGATION,
AND DELINEATION – WETLAND FUNCTIONS AND VALUE ASSESSMENT
33 KENYON ROAD, WATERFORD, CT

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald:

In August 2020, I visited the site referenced above to delineate the inland wetlands and watercourses that may exist on the site.

I sampled the soils throughout the site using a soil auger to a depth of 2-3 feet. Based on my field observations and using the guidelines established by the National Cooperative Soil Survey and as defined by the Connecticut General Statutes, I delineated the inland wetland soils using pink and blue flagging numbered WL-1-WL-39.

Inland Wetlands are defined as areas of poorly drained, very poorly drained, floodplain and alluvial soils. Watercourses are defined as bogs, swamps, or marshes, as well as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, etc., whether natural or man-made, permanent or intermittent.

The inland wetland soils on the site and off the site are classified as a very poorly drained Catden and Freetown organic muck soils. These soils are often found in depressions and drainageways on glacial till uplands and in bogs and swamps and are mapped together as a complex due to their similar physical characteristics, use and management.

The majority of the upland soils on the site are classified as a well drained Charlton-Chatfield rocky fine sandy loam. These soils are well drained soils found on glacial till uplands. There are also upland soils classified as a moderately well drained Ninigret fine sandy loams. See the USDA soils map included in the application submitted.

The inland wetlands and watercourses delineation is shown correctly on a site plan entitled:

“Land of Congregation Beth-EL, Inc., 33 Kenyon Road, Waterford, CT, scale 1” = 40’, dated 7/1/23, existing conditions plan sheet C1.1, prepared by Summer Hill Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, P.C.”

The wetland area is classified as a forested wetland/bog general classification. The wetland area has functions that include: groundwater recharge and discharge, sediment stabilization, nutrient removal and transformation, product export, and wildlife diversity. The vegetative over-story includes maples, locust, black cherry and poplar. Shrub species include, winterberry, spice bush, silky dogwood. The herbaceous layer includes sensitive fern, poison ivy, wild grape, Joe Pye weed, jewel weed and skunk cabbage.

The main body of this vast wetland area that extends north – northeast towards Pladgett Place and Vauxhall Street Extension is of high value for vegetative diversity, wildlife habitat and visual aesthetics.

The upland area of the site has been maintained as a lawn/field type of landscape. Limited trees are located in the upland portion of the site and are comprised mostly of maples and butternut and locust. Golden rod, grape vine, black berries, green brier, milkweed multi-flora rose, New England Aster and bittersweet make up the rest of the vegetative upland species.

Along wetland flags # WL21- WL26, a historic drainage ditch was created by a former owner many years ago. There was evidence of ditching and grading up to wetland flags WL-21 – WL-26 and remnants of a crumpled concrete pipe was observed. The vast area of the main wetlands are located to the north and east of the site. Wetland flags WL-16 to WL-30 is the edge and limits of the larger wetland area.

As a result of this feature, 450 sq ft of inland wetland soils are proposed to be altered in order to install a well designed stormwater infiltration basin. This basin will infiltrate storm water from the site into the ground water that will sustain the functionality of the wetland to accept ground water recharge.

There will be no clearing of vegetation other than that is necessary to install the storm water infiltration basin.

The proposed development in the 100’ upland review area will not be disturbing any wetlands and/or watercourses on the site or adjacent to the site. For that reason, the inland wetlands will continue to perform their functions and high value as they currently do.

With any proposed project a comprehensive erosion and sedimentation control plan, well designed and properly installed and maintained is the key to a successful project. This site plan meets those requirements. Regular inspections should occur, especially prior to storm events predicted of more than 1.5” of rain.

After reviewing the erosion and sedimentation control plans and the storm water design features, it is my professional opinion that the proposed construction activities will not have a significant adverse effect on the adjacent inland wetlands and/or watercourse on or off the site.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at the telephone number referenced above.

Very truly yours,

James Sipperly

James Sipperly

Certified Soil Scientist, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England

Connecticut Wetland Scientist, Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists