

# Wendell Wetland Services

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July 24, 2018

Mr. Tony Wonseski  
SVE Associates  
P.O. Box 1818  
Brattleboro, VT 05302

Re: Wetland delineation, former Oxford Pickle site, South Deerfield MA

Dear Mr. Wonseski:

As requested, Wendell Wetland Services (WWS) visited the above referenced property today in order to delineate wetlands in the vicinity of a proposed new building. All wetlands that are protectable under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. chapter 131, section 40) and Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) have been marked in the field with consecutively numbered pink and black-striped flagging tape. While these boundaries have been accurately identified, only the Deerfield Conservation Commission, or the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on appeal, can make the final determination of the extent of the wetland resource areas on the site.

## **Delineation Methodology**

The methodology employed in delineating the "bordering vegetated wetland" boundary utilizes both vegetation and hydrology as outlined in the Regulations at 310 CMR 10.55 and in the DEP handbook *Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act* (1995). Hydrophytic Vegetation was based upon the US Fish and Wildlife Service's *National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands* (1988), as well as all plant species listed in the Act. Wetland hydrology includes a high water table, water-stained leaves, and hydric soils. Hydric soils were determined based upon the interagency document *Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, Version 4* (2016).

The Mean Annual High Water line (MAHW) of Blacksmith Brook was delineated in accordance with the Regulations. On this site, since the River is fast-flowing and has well-defined banks, the MAHW was generally coincident with the top of the "bank" resource area.

## **Site Description**

The proposed new building will be located in the southwestern corner of the former Oxford Pickle property. This area is largely devoid of topsoil, and is vegetated by pioneer herbaceous species typical of disturbed areas.

Blacksmith Brook lies to the west, within a wooded strip of land between the site and a row of single family homes. The banks of this brook in the project vicinity were marked by flags HW-1 to HW-24. Bordering on this Brook in the northern part of the project area is a narrow wetland that is vegetated red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), and jewel weed (*Impatiens capensis*). Flags A-1 to A-11 mark this fringe wetland.

To the south, there is a fringe that contains similar species to the "A" wetland, but also includes a higher bench that is vegetated by cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*). Flags B-1 to B-19 mark this wetland.

There is a detention basin to the northwest of the proposed building site. This area was not delineated, as it is clearly a man-made stormwater structure.

### **Wetland Resource Areas**

Under the state Regulations (310 CMR 10.00), wetlands are broken up into different "resource areas," each of which is regulated in a slightly different manner. The delineated wetlands contain the following resource areas, to which there is a 100 foot buffer zone:

- \* Bank (10.54) – the banks of Blacksmith Brook
- \* Bordering Vegetated Wetland (10.55) – marked by the "A" and "B" lines
- \* Land Under a Waterway (10.56) – Blacksmith Brook

The following resource area is not field delineated, and does not have any additional "buffer zone:"

- \* Riverfront Area (10.58) – the area within 200 feet of the MAHW of Blacksmith Brook

The site does not fall within the *Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife* or *Priority Habitats of Rare Species* according to the most recent online mapping.

### **Project Planning**

Before any definitive site plans are made, it is always my recommendation that you have the wetland boundaries delineated, surveyed onto a site plan, and then verified by the Commission through the filing of a *Request for Determination of Applicability* (WPA form 1) or an *Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation* (WPA form 4A). Once approved by the Commission, the wetland boundaries are "locked in" for a period of three years, and will allow you to proceed with site design in confidence.

Any large-scale project in the area will require the filing of a *Notice of Intent* (WPA form 3) with the Deerfield Conservation Commission. Given that the site was previously developed, you should be able to file under the "redevelopment" provision of the Riverfront Regulations at 310 CMR 10.58. Sediment and erosion control should be shown on the site plans that is adequate to protect the downgradient wetlands from

sedimentation during construction. The project should also be designed so as to comply with the DEP's *Stormwater Management Standards*.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the delineation.

Sincerely,  
Wendell Wetland Services



Ward Smith, PWS  
Professional Wetland Scientist



7.24.18