

November 16, 2022

W6250

Town of Deerfield
Conservation Commission
8 Conway Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Sent VIA Email

RE: : Off Greenfield Road (Rt. 5) Site, Deerfield, MA.
DEP File No. 142-0231 – Applicant Kenneth Bouquillon.

Dear Commission Members:

As discussed at the recent Conservation Hearing on this ANRAD filing, DGT has reviewed the report prepared by Kate Bednaz, PWS of Freshwater Wetland Services (FWS) dated November 7, 2022. In response to the comments included in the report, DGT revisited the site on November 15, 2022 to review the findings in the field and make the recommended adjustments and added wetland boundaries to the plan.

Below are our responses to each of the FWS comments. We have included the FWS comments (in italics) for reference. The amended plans are included with this letter report.

1. *FWS notes the DEP Wetlands Delineation Data Forms have been modified according to DEP's comment. FWS finds the data presentation accurate.*

DGT RESPONSE: Acknowledged. No response necessary.

2. *It is noted that the wetland boundary does not extend to the edge of the subject property in multiple locations along the northerly boundary. In addition, the southwest side of the BVW J and F has not been delineated.*

If the applicant does not wish to have these areas included in the Determination, it is recommended that the Deerfield Conservation Commission (DCC) clearly specify in the document that only areas delineated and depicted on the application plans are included as part of this Determination. This would also include intermittent streams / banks within wetland areas that have been stated to not be delineated.

DGT RESPONSE:

The Applicant and DGT agree with this comment and this matter was stated in the application. We concur with the recommendation as to how this would be specified within the ORAD. Note the following:

- The delineation performed as amended will cover all the areas on the parcel where the future project will be sited and will include the buffer zone limits. (Note that additional wetland resource areas have been added to the plan to address other comments discussed later in this report.)

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- It is acknowledged that additional definition of the intermittent streams will be necessary where proposed wetland crossings are to be made. This will need to be done to properly address how the performance standards are to be met. The additional delineation of the streams for the crossings are to be included on the Site Plans for the Notice of Intent. In all other areas where no alteration of the BVW and / or Intermittent streams are proposed, the delineation of the intermittent streams will not be necessary.
3. *Visual observations and culverts shown on the application plans, indicate that jurisdictional wetland resource areas are located on the east side of Route 5 and have not been shown on the application plans. It should be noted that the BVW Buffer Zone extends onto Route 5 from the subject site. However, the wetland buffer does not extend to Route 5 in the far northeast corner of the site. It is recommended that the wetlands on the east side of Route 5 be defined to depict the extent of the regulated areas that extend onto the subject site (from the east side of the road).*

Furthermore, the tributary to Bloody Brook that continues along the east side of Route 5 and is indicated as perennial in jurisdiction according to topographic mapping. It is recommended that the jurisdictional status of this portion of the Brook be verified and mapped accordingly with any associated Riverfront Area which will likely extend onto the subject site.

If access for delineation and survey cannot be obtained, a visual approximation using mapping and field verification may be utilized to show the approximate extent of any jurisdictional areas extending from the east side of Route 5 onto the subject property.

DGT RESPONSE:

We concur with the FWS comments and recommendations made. The property on the east side of Route 5 is private property and we do not have permission to enter onto those properties to perform a formal delineation and survey. Per the recommendation for this situation, we have done the following to depict the boundary of the BVW and the Bank / MAHW of the west side of the stream as follows:

- First, we agree that the Brook is mapped on the latest U.S.G.S. map as a perennial stream. The watershed is definitely over 1 square mile in area and much of the watershed is in glacial outwash soil. Per the Mass. regulations, this stream is presumed to be perennial and given the drought conditions of this year, a study of the stream to overcome the presumption is not possible at this time. The stream was flowing when we visited the site on 11/15/2022. We will therefore presume that the status of this stream is perennial.
- The stream shows up very well on the 2019 Aerial Photography on the Mass. GIS website. That photography was during leaf off conditions, so it is good for this purpose. Based on that photography, we plotted the west bank of the stream into the Topographic Plan.
- On November 15, I visited the site and noted that the stream east of Route 5 is similar to the portion on our site in that it is well defined and the estimated seasonal high water signs are generally within the bank of the stream. See photo included below.

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- I field verified the location by taping from the road to the bank in several area and found very good correlation. We would therefore conclude that the location we show on the plan is a good approximation of the stream bank / MAHW for this purpose.
- The vegetated wetland that borders on the above reach of stream is fairly close to the base of the roadway fill slope for most of the distance. The boundary veers to the east across the road from the northern portion of the subject site. To locate the wetland boundary, we taped the distance from the road guardrail to the wetland boundary. The boundary is very easily defined as it is near the bottom of a steep slope. The adjusted line is now shown on the plan and in our opinion is a good approximation of the BVW boundary.



Typical view of stream to east of Rt. 5

4. *It is recommended that BVW #G11A be added upgradient between flags BVW#G11 and BVW#G12.*

DGT Response: I concur with this finding and set a flag accordingly (see the plan).

5. *Please verify portion of ruts near BVW#G10 that are jurisdictional BVW. It appears that these may have been created post the initial delineation. Redoximorphic features, a low chroma matrix, and evidence of hydrology were observed in this area and should be included.*

DGT Response: It appears that a drilling machine depressed the soil adjacent to Flag BVW G10 such that the soil surface is now less than 12 inches from redox features. We have placed new flags BVW G10A, G10B and G10C to define this adjustment and G10 is eliminated.

6. *It is recommended that the BVW line be amended between BVW#J13 and BVW#J12 by adding flag BVW#J12A in between these flags and upgradient, just below T1-P1.*

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DGT Response: Agreed. See plan for added BVW flag.

7. *It is recommended that the BVW line be amended to add flag BVW#J21A between flags BVW#J21 and BVW#J22, approximately 5 feet upgradient of the existing line to include soils with prominent redoximorphic features.*

DGT Response: Agreed. See plan for added BVW flag.

8. *An area of ponded water was noted within the wetland adjacent to BVW#F31. No clearly defined outlet was noted. Prior to any development application, FWS recommends that this area be evaluated during the spring season to see if it meets criteria for a vernal pool. No action is recommended as part of this application.*

DGT Response: For the record, I have observed the area in question on 11/15/2022 and provide the following information.

- I observed the area to be ponded. The ponding is approximately 45 feet long and 20 feet wide in the area of flags F29 to short of F32. Depth was a maximum of 8 inches along the center.
- The ponding area is within the intermittent stream in this area and the water was outflowing in the area between F29 and J30.
- At this location, the intermittent stream narrows and downed trees, branches, leaves and debris have clogged the stream. The ponded area was overflowing to the stream below the clogged area.
- It is my opinion that, if the downed trees and debris were removed, most (if not all) of this ponding would be eliminated.
- See the photos of the current ponded area (on 11/15/2022).



Ponded area in intermittent stream at Flag F31.



Outlet stream partially blocked with trees and debris. Looking downstream.

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Looking upstream to ponded area showing blockage.

View of stream below the blockage.

We are submitting this letter and plan to the Commission and to Kate Bednaz of FWS for review and we look forward to the discussion at the continued hearing on November 17, 2022. We will also send hard copies as required for your files.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,
DGT Associates

Fredric W. King

Fredric W. King
Senior Wetland Specialist

Attachment: Revised Topographic Plan set.

CC: Kate Bednaz
Kenneth Bouquillon