

# Wendell Wetland Services

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January 11, 2022

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

Re: Wetland Assessment, former Oxford Foods site, South Deerfield

Dear Mr. Wonseski:

As requested, Wendell Wetland Services (WWS) visited the above referenced site on January 4, 2022 in order to review the wetland boundaries as shown on the "Wetland Resources Map" by VHB, Inc. While I am qualified to render an expert opinion on such matters, 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.

## **Evaluation Methodology**

The methodology employed in my evaluation utilized 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 (2019)*.

The Mean Annual High Water Line (MAHWL) of Sugarloaf Brook was evaluated in accordance with the Regulations. On this site, since the Brook flows within steep, well-defined banks, the MAHWL was coincident with the top of the "bank" resource area, which was determined to be the first observable break in the slope.

## **Wetland Boundaries**

Unfortunately, none of the flags were still visible in the filed. However, the MAHWL of Sugarloaf Brook is very well defined and should be virtually identical if a re-delineation is required. Similarly, the boundary of the Wetland I is well-defined, and is unlikely to change significantly in a re-delineation.

The only area where I believe that the previous delineation needs revision is the depression identified as "Wetland D" on the site plan. This area is clearly a constructed detention basin, with an outlet structure, and is separated from a sediment forebay by a rip-rap berm. This area should be shown on the site plan, but the Deerfield Conservation Commission needs to determine if they wish to take jurisdiction over it as a "bordering vegetated wetland."

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my evaluation.

Sincerely,  
Wendell Wetland Services



Ward Smith, SPWS  
Senior Professional Wetland Scientist

