

Environmental Land Solutions, LLC

Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning

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June 23, 2021

Inland Wetlands Commission

Town Hall Annex

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, CT 06897

Re: Significant Corrective Action Permit - Supplement
220 Nod Hill Road, Wilton, CT

Dear Commission Members:

At the request of Herman and Candice Behrens, owners of the above referenced property, Environmental Land Solutions, LLC (ELS) reviewed the "Timber Trespass Report" prepared by Connwood Foresters, Inc., for 220 Nod Hill Road, submitted on behalf of South Norwalk Electric and Water (SNEW). We disagree that trees found on the adjoining property are equal to the density of trees found on the Behrens property before the tree removal work was performed based on the following comments.

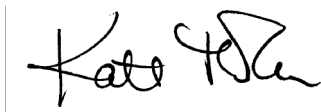
1. The area on the SNEW property affected by recent trees removal is 5580 sf \pm , not 0.29 acres (12,632.9 sf) referenced Connwood in the report. This area was determined by using A-2 Survey prepared by Ryan and Fauld, which established the property line, disturbed graded areas, and the remaining (impenetrable Multiflora Rose) shrubs line on the survey, as well as the stumps found in the accessible areas along the shore line.
2. The stump pictured in the report is at least 3 years old, based on the amount of decay, and was not part of the more recent tree removal.
3. The plot areas surveyed on the adjacent lot by Connwood do not accurately reflect the density of trees on SNEW's property. One factor not accounted for in the report is the Ash tree population that occurs closer to the reservoir. This native shade tree has been decimated in recent years by the Emerald Ash Borer. The trees along the shore are primarily composed of Red Maple and Ash, not the Oaks and Sugar Maples found on the adjoining property. Due to the Emerald Ash Borer, Ash tree populations have been significantly reduced in recent years due to insect infestation.
4. The Behrens' have provided a photograph taken from the house looking down to

the pond on December 16, 2018. This photo shows the existing trees before the contracted tree removal began. In the photo, three trees were cut down and are lying on the ground. Regrading is underway adjacent to the house, near the existing wall. This photo shows the tree canopy before the majority of the work began, and reflects that the view from the house had been thinned over the years by previous owners and there is little to no understory trees or shrubs. The attached marked up photograph based on a site visit this morning verifies what trees remain and are also located on the survey.

5. Regarding the previous submitted (winter) aerial photograph by ELS provides backup for our tree removal count (sourced from the town GIS). It could be debated that some of the smaller trees are not discernible in the aerial. However, it is clear the larger trees along the shoreline were very sparse, and clearly did not reflect the density cited in the Connwood report. ELS previously cited 19 trees removed from the affected area, as noted in our report dated February 8, 2021. Fourteen trees from the Behrens site and 2 to 5 trees within the SNEW property, in addition there was a noted discrepancy in the number of trees shown within the SNEW property between the 2016 and 2019 aerial images. Fewer trees are seen in the 2019 aerial within the SNEW property. It is presumed this reduction is due to storm damage and the Ash tree death from the Emerald Ash Borer.

The attached photograph clearly demonstrates the existing trees along the shoreline, and does not reflect the much higher amounts or densities off the site counted by Connwood. However, in the interest of compromise, the Behrens' are willing to add 3 understory trees to the plan, providing a total of 12 trees on the SNEW property, and a total of 25 new trees for the 100' buffer which is more than all the previous trees in the photograph provided.

Sincerely,



Kate Throckmorton, ASLA
Landscape Architect
Certified Professional in Erosion and Sedimentation Controls (CPESC)

cc: Herman Behrens

Nod Hill Road 220-Wilton ltr-2.wpd

220 NOD HILL ROAD
WILTON, CT
TAKEN DEC. 16, 2018



20' MAPLE

20' ASH (DEAD)
(STANDING)

20' HICKORY

AREA OF TREE
REMOVAL

BIRCH NOT ON
SURVEY

30' MAPLE

20' OAK