Environmental Land Solutions, LLC

Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning 8 Knight Street, Suite 203, Norwalk, CT 06851 Tel: (203) 855-7879 Fax: (203) 855-7836

June 23, 2021

Inland Wetlands Commission Town Hall Annex 238 Danbury Road Wilton, CT 06897

Re: Significant Corrective Action Permit Application 230 Ridgefield Road, Wilton, CT

Dear Commission Members:

Following comments received at the Wetland Commission's June 10, 2021 meeting, the following responses are provided.

- The exposed soil condition around the demolished house was requested to be seeded, and mulched and a silt fence erected. I meet the site contractor the day after the meeting to review this work. The area was seeded, mulched and a silt fence erected the following day. The Commission and staff noted at the June 21, 2021, site walk that the work had been completed and the seeds had begun to germinate.
- 2. There was a question raised by staff on the effect of the wood chip trail on the flood plain. I have attached an email from Joe Canas, P.E. stating "Since the path will be constructed such that the woodchips are at existing grade, there will be no impact." A detail of the woodchip surface is on sheet WP-6.
- 3. The staff raised a question regarding the wetland's line adjustment made by Eric Davidson. To help clarify this item I have resubmitted the wetland report with the wetland field sketch previously lacking, that provides the references adjustment in the wetland line. In addition, during the site walk on 6/21/21 the area was reviewed and I had a follow-up phone call with the staff. I believe we have addressed staff's concern. The survey has not been updated in part due to the back log of surveying work, but the applicant is willing to do this as a part of final resolution.
- 4. Regarding the authorization from the neighbor for the dam work off the Smith property. Authorization was obtained by Trout Unlimited and provided to Mike Conkin on June 21, 2021, during the site walk.

- 5. The staff also requested we consider expanding the proposed planting plan in the northwestern wetland. The plan was revised to reflect additional shrubs and Yellow Birch within the wetland. Please refer to sheet WP-4.
- 6. The staff asked that we clarify the establishment of a 4' wide foot path to School Road. A note has been expanded to the plans to clarify that this pathway will only involve branch trimming to allow a person to walk through an opening in the vegetation. There will be no change to the ground surface to create this path. Please refer to sheet WP-3.
- 7. The staff requested that additional details and notes be added relating to the dam removal. Erosion and control notes have been expanded to clarify the area must be left with all areas stabilized, no soil will remain exposed, and that if any trees or shrubs are damaged during the removal that it they are replaced on a one to one basis. Please refer to sheet WP-5.

Thank you for consideration. I will be attending at the next meeting to review these changes in detail.

Sincerely,

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

Ridgefield Road 230-wilton-ltr.wpd







WP-3		(
DRAWING NO .:		NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851	
SCALE: 1"=50'		U Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning I 8 ↓ I 8 KNIGHT STREET, SUITE 203	MENTA
DATE: MAY 7, 2021	SEAL:	EAVIRONMENTAL LAND SOLUTIONS, LLC	LANDSCAPE
	WILTON, CONNECTIC	ADD NOTE FOR FOOT PATH CONSTRUCTION	6-22-21
	230 RIDGEFIELD ROAI		
	SMITH FAMILY		
	PROJECT:		
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ADDED PLANTS PER STAFF REQUEST ENVIRONMENTAL LAND SOLUT Landscape Architecture and Environmen 8 KNIGHT STREET, SUITE 203 NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851 Tel: (203) 855-7879 Fax: (203) 855-7 info@elsllc.net www.elsllc.net	COMMON NAME RED MAPLE SHAD YELLOW BIRCH BLACK GUM SWAMP WHITE OAK SPECKLEd ALDER SPICEBUSH	
IONS, LLC ntal Planning 7836	SIZE 2-2.5" CAL 5-6' HT. 2-3' HT. 2-3' HT. 2-3' HT.	
DRAWING TITLE: MITIGA PROJECT: 230 RIDG WILTON, SEAL:	ROOT B&B B&B B&B B&B B&B B&B B&B B&B	
FAMILY SEFIELD ROAD CONNECTICUT DATE: MAY 7, 2021 SCALE: 1"=30' DRAWING NO:: WP-4	REMARKS FULL MULTI-STEM FULL	PROPERTY LINE WATERCOURSE LINE 100' UPLAND REVIEW AREA NEW SILT FENCE EX. EVERGREEN/DECIDUOUS TREE TO REMAIN (APPROX. LOCATION) TREES RECENTLY REMOVED NEW EVERGREEN TREE NEW DECIDUOUS SHADE TREE NEW SMALL FLOWERING TREE NEW SHRUB NEW JEX. LAWN



- . B WETLAND AREAS: SEED THIS AREA WITH "WETMIX" BY NEW ENGLAND WETLAND PLANTS, INC. (413-548-8000).

NOTES 1. DETAIL PROVIDED BY TROUT UNLIMITED

ω. THE SEED SHALL BE SPREAD ON THE PREPARED SEEDING SOIL, RAKED LIGHTLY TO ESTABLISH GOOD SOIL CONTACT, AND MULCHED WITH A 2 INCH LOOSE LAYER OF CLEAN OAT STRAW OR COMMERCIAL WOOD FIBER PRODUCTS APPLIED BY HAND OR BY HYDROSEEDING ON SLOPES LESS THAT 10%. SEEDED SLOPES ON OR GREATER THAN 10 PERCENT SHALL BE COVERED WITH A PLASTIC-FREE EROSION CONTROL BLANKET.

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10 Maple Street Chester, CT 06412 860-803-0938 www.davisonenvironmental.com

Pond

Biodiversity Studies • Wetland Delineation & Assessment • Habitat Management • GIS Mapping • Permitting • Forestry

WETLANDS / WATERCOURSES DELINEATION REPORT

Date of Wo	rk: <i>5/6/2021</i>	Client:		
		Kate Throckmorton		
Project Location:		Environmental Land Solutions 8 Knight Street, Suite 203		
	230 Ridgefield Rd, Wilton			
		Norwalk, CT 06851		

IDENTIFICATION OF WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES RESOURCES

Wetlands and watercourses present on property?				\boxtimes	No		
Wetlands: Watercourses:				<u>Identi</u>	ficatio	n Meth	od:
Inland Wetlands	\boxtimes	Perennial Streams	\boxtimes	Auge	r and S	Spade	\boxtimes
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Definitions and methodology for identification of state regulated wetlands & watercourses

Wetlands and watercourses are regulated in the State of Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 440, sections 22a-28 to 22a-45. The Statutes are divided into the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (sections 22a-36 to 22a-45) and the Tidal Wetlands Act (sections 22a-28 to 22a-35). Inland Wetlands "means land, including submerged land, not regulated pursuant to sections 22a-28 to 22a-35, inclusive, which consists of any of the soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial, and floodplain by the National Cooperative Soils Survey, as may be amended from time to time, of the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture" section 22a-38(15). Watercourses "means rivers, streams, brooks, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs and all other bodies of water, natural or artificial, vernal or intermittent, public or private which are contained within, flow through or border upon this state or any portion thereof, not regulated pursuant to sections 22a-28 to 22a-35, inclusive. Intermittent watercourses shall be delineated by a defined permanent channel and bank and the occurrence of two or more of the following characteristics: (A) Evidence of scour or deposits of recent alluvium or detritus, (B) the presence of standing or flowing water for a duration longer than a particular storm incident, and (C) the presence of hydrophytic vegetation" section 22a-38(16). Tidal Wetlands are defined as "those areas which border on or lie beneath tidal waters, such as, but not limited to banks, bogs, salt marsh, swamps, meadows, flats, or other low lands subject to tidal action, including those areas now or formerly connected to tidal waters, and whose surface is at or below an elevation of one foot above local extreme high water; and upon which may grow or be capable of growing some, but not necessarily all of the following" (includes plant list) section 22a-29(2).

WETLAND SOIL TYPES

Wetland soils consist of the Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman complex, as well as the Pootatuck series. Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman is an undifferentiated mapping unit consisting of two poorly drained (Ridgebury and Leicester) and one very poorly drained (Whitman) soil developed on glacial till in depressions and drainageways in uplands and valleys. Their use interpretations are very similar, and they typically are so intermingled on the landscape that separation is not practical. The Ridgebury and Leicester series have a seasonal high water table at or near the surface (0-6") from fall through spring. They differ in that the Leicester soil has a more friable compact layer or hardpan, while the Ridgebury soils have a dense to very dense compact layer. The Whitman soil has a high water table for much of the year and may frequently be ponded.

The Pootatuck series consists of very deep, moderately well drained loamy soils formed in alluvial sediments. They are nearly level soils on floodplains subject to common flooding. Slope ranges from 0 to 3 percent. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid in the loamy upper horizons and rapid or very rapid in the sandy substratum layers.

NON-WETLAND SOILS

Non-wetland soils consist of Udorthents, the Canton and Charlton complex, and the Woodbridge series. Udorthents is a miscellaneous land type used to denote moderately well to excessively drained earthen material which has been so disturbed by cutting, filling, or grading that the original soil profile can no longer be discerned.

The Canton series consists of very deep, well drained soils formed in a loamy mantle underlain by sandy glacial till. They are on nearly level to very steep glaciated plains, hills, and ridges. Slope ranges from 0 to 35 percent. Permeability is moderately rapid in the solum and rapid in the substratum. The soils developed in a fine sandy loam mantle over acid sandy glacial till of Wisconsin age derived mainly from granite and gneiss and some fine-grained sandstone.

The Charlton series is a very deep, well drained loamy soil formed in friable till. They are nearly level to very steep soils on till plains and hills. Depth to bedrock and the seasonal high water table is commonly more than 6 feet.

The Woodbridge series consists of moderately well drained loamy soils formed in compact, subglacial till. They are very deep to bedrock. They are nearly level to moderately steep soils

on till plains, hills, and drumlins. Depth to the compact layer (hardpan) is 18 to 40 inches. Depth to bedrock is commonly more than 6 feet. Woodbridge soils have a seasonal high water table on top of the compact layer (18-40") from fall through late spring.

SUMMARY of FINDINGS

Wetlands present on the site consist of forested wetlands and floodplain wetlands (alluvial soils) that border upon or drain to Comstock Brook. This was a reconfirmation of a delineation I completed over ten years ago. The previous flag locations were reset in the field by survey, and I walked the limits and examined the flag locations. I made a minor (<u>+</u> 15ft) adjustment to the following flags: 33, 37, 64, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 80, 81 and 83. In addition, I refined the flagging between #76 and #78, to include a narrow upland peninsula that had previously been undefined.

If you have any questions regarding my findings, please feel free to contact me.

Gui Davisor

Eric Davison Certified Professional Wetland Scientist Registered Soil Scientist



Kate Throckmorton

From: Sent: To: Subject: Joseph A. Canas <JACanas@tighebond.com> Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:14 PM Kate Throckmorton 230 Ridgefield Road - Woodchips and Floodplain

Hi Kate-

As a follow-up to your earlier voicemail and our conversation, you had asked about the impact of the woodchip path within the floodplain. Since the path will be constructed such that the woodchips are at existing grade, there will be no impact on the base flood elevation of the floodplain.

The reason that there will be no impact is that the path will be constructed such that existing grade will be excavated to the width and depth to accommodate the placement of woodchips in the excavated footprint. In other words, there will be no loss of floodplain volume since the existing grade is not changing.

Joseph Canas, PE, LEED AP, CFM | Principal Engineer

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