

September 1, 2021

FJ Properties
76 Fisher Road
Southboro, MA 01772

Re: Wetland Inspection along Railroad Bed
15 Rice Road Millbury

Dear FJ Properties:

In November of 2020 the wetland resources were flagged on site; in which no wetland resource areas were observed along the adjacent railroad bed. During a recent hearing an abutter requested that this area be re-evaluated for potential wetland resources, which prompted an additional inspection that occurred on August 31, 2021.

On August 31, 2021, the land located at the edge of the railroad bed was inspected for wetland resource areas. To qualify as a wetland the area must have 50% or more wetland indicator species and the presence of hydric gray/mottled soils and/or indicators of hydrology (staining, surface water, evidence of flow). Vegetation observed along the railroad bed consists of American hazelnut and witch hazel shrubs (both upland species), a canopy of red oak and red maple trees (1 upland species and 1 wetland species) and an herbaceous layer of Canada mayflower and aralia (both upland species) (refer to photograph 1 and 2). As a result, the vegetation in this area is predominantly upland (5 upland species to 1 wetland species) and therefore does not qualify possessing the first wetland requirement of 50% or more wetland indicator species.

Soil samples were also taken throughout the area. The samples showed a 6-inch layer of 10YR2/2 loam over 14 inches of a 10YR4/4 loamy sand (which is a bright upland soil). In addition, no indicators of hydrology were present. No leaf staining was observed (which would indicate standing water), no puddling of water was observed, and no evidence of flow (stream or moved leaves) was observed in this area (refer to photograph 1 and 2 (no staining) and photograph 3 (soil profile)). As a result, the second requirement of the presence of wetland soils and/or wetland hydrology are not present in this area.

Due to the lack of wetland vegetation dominance, lack of wetland soils and lack of wetland hydrology this area does not qualify as a wetland resource area.

Further agreement with this evaluation, the Mass GIS data layer and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service maps were inspected. These government data systems do not show any mapped wetland or stream along the railroad bed and the area in question is mapped consisting of upland Merrimac fine sandy loam, which is consistent with the upland soil profile observed and documented above. In conclusion, this area along the railroad bed is not a wetland resource area.



Photo 1. Upland species of Red Oak, witch hazel, American hazel nut and aralia. No staining or other hydrology observed within the area.



Photo 2. Same upland species observed in a different location along railroad bed.



Photo 3. Upland soil profile observed. No gray soils or high chroma mottles observed

Sincerely,
Goddard Consulting, LLC.

Nicole Hayes, PWS
Senior Wetland Scientist