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July 31, 2006

Mr. Alex Weinhagen
Director of Planning & Zoning
Town of Hinesburg
P.O. Box 133
Hinesburg, VT 05461

Re: Lot 31 Wetland Delineation
West Side Delineation Review

Dear Alex:

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the results of the wetland assessment conducted for Lot 31 and the West Side study area in Hinesburg, Vermont.

Lot 31

Arrowwood Environmental (AE) was retained by the Town of Hinesburg to conduct a formal wetland delineation of a Town owned parcel (Lot 31) adjacent to the Creek Side development.

In order for an area to be considered a wetland, it must be characterized by hydrophytic (wetland) vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Areas within the subject parcel exhibit the necessary characteristics to be classified as wetland.

On July 26, 2006, Dori Barton delineated the wetlands on the subject parcel according to the criteria of the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. Wetland flagging was hung at the wetland boundaries and subsequently surveyed via sub-meter GPS on the same day. The wetland delineation is presented on the attached Wetland Resource Plan.

The NWI map for this area shows a mapped Class II wetland (Town Sewer Lagoons) on the west side of the LaPlatte River, approximately 1200' from the subject property. The wetlands on the subject property do not appear to be contiguous to this mapped wetland, and are therefore likely considered Class III wetlands per the Vermont Wetland Rules. A formal determination of wetland classification can be obtained from the Vermont Wetlands Office.

The wetlands on the subject property are currently characterized as old field with pockets of emergent marsh. The soils are silt loams and silty clay loams with redoximorphic features present. Vegetation within wetland areas is commonly characterized by wet goldenrod species (tall and wrinkled), sedges and rushes, Joe-pye-weed, and vervain.

Dry upland areas within the parcel are generally characterized by a monoculture of Canada goldenrod.

West Side Delineation Review

AE was also retained by the Town of Hinesburg to review the 1995 wetland delineation for the 120-acre "West Side" area to provide feedback on current wetland status, and to help explain inconsistencies with more recent delineations. Subsequent to the start of the project, access to the area south of Patrick Brook was denied. Review of this area was restricted to that visible from Creek Side development, the property to the north of Patrick Brook, and Route 116.

On July 10, 2006, Dori Barton visited the accessible portions of the West Side parcel and reviewed the historic wetland delineation. Based on spot checking vegetation and soils, and professional judgment, Barton estimated the current wetland boundaries on the property. A formal wetland delineation was not conducted. The boundaries presented on the attached Wetland Resource map are for planning purposes only.

The delineation review resulted in the identification of three potential upland areas within what was previously mapped as wetland. The three areas appear to have a dominance of upland vegetation (timothy, quack grass, red clover, and orchard grass). Soils within the West Side study area are generally tight and wet (clays and silt loams).

As the meadows in the study area are maintained as agricultural fields, it is possible that the 1995 wetland delineation was based on soils alone and therefore upland pockets (based on vegetation) were missed.

Based on visual inspection of the property to the south of Patrick Brook, from the above described vantage points, it appears that the area is indeed primarily wetland. While there may be pockets of upland within this area, it appears to be predominately wetland.

The NWI map for this area shows a mapped Class II wetland (Town Sewer Lagoons) on the west side of the LaPlatte River, approximately 500' from the subject property. The wetlands within the West Side study area do not appear to be contiguous to this mapped wetland, and are therefore likely considered Class III wetlands per the Vermont Wetland Rules. A formal determination of wetland classification can be obtained from the Vermont Wetlands Office.

Summary

In summary, Arrowwood Environmental conducted a formal wetland delineation on Lot 31 and reviewed the 1995 wetland delineation for the West Side parcel. Class III wetlands have identified within the study area and presented on the attached Wetland Resource map. Wetlands identified within the West Side parcel were not formally delineated and there boundaries should only be used for gross planning purposes.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Dori Barton
Wetland Ecologist