

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

November 15, 2020

SITE WALK

1179 Farmington Ave. – Show Cause Hearing)

The site walk began at approximately 8:30 am.

Present were Commissioners Fox, Isner, Statchen and Simpson, Assistant Town Planner Rutherford, Development Specialist Cyr and third-party review Wetland Scientist Ed Pawlak. On behalf of the owner the following individuals were present: Stanley Mierzejewski, Bill Galske, George Logan and Rich Hayes.

The walk began in the parking area adjacent to the current construction stockpiling activities and headed east toward Wetlands A and B. Prior to arriving at Wetland B, Ed Pawlak pointed out an area of standing water located at the base of a large stockpile of processed aggregated. This area was just west of Wetland B. George Logan and Ed Pawlak briefly discussed the characteristics of the area and how long standing water has been present at this location. Assistant Planner Rutherford confirmed there was standing water at this location in May.

The walk proceeded east to Wetland B. This is also an area of standing water. It was noted that tadpoles were observed at this location in the spring and early summer, and that the water level has varied through the spring, summer and fall. Ed Pawlak suggested that this location should continue to be monitored.

The walk proceeded east to Wetland A. There was a brief discussion of the trenches used by George Logan to mark the wetland limits within the fill area. Ed Pawlak indicated he concurred with the method and delineation. The walk proceeded into the undisturbed area of Wetland A to observe areas of standing water within the wetland. The walk proceeded east toward the eastern edge of Wetland A out to the edge of disturbance.

There is evidence of some of the fill material eroding, causing rills in the sloped edge and depositing material at the toe of the fill edge / wetland edge. There was a discussion regarding the need for erosion control along the fill edge. The Commission members present agreed it would be beneficial to have the erosion control installed as soon as possible.

There was a question regarding the origin of the fill material used for this work. Stanley Meirzejewski confirmed that all of the fill material came from the berm on site. A follow up question was asked regarding the swallows that had occupied the cut face of the berm during the summer and early fall. George Logan confirmed that the birds had vacated. He noted that they occupy an area for a brief time and then depart.

The group continued east along the old haul road. George Logan pointed out survey reference flags and stakes that had been set to locate the wetlands delineated at the time of the permitting for the Temple. George Logan indicated that four of the wetlands were completely covered in fill; however, he located and investigated the other areas and did not agree that they met the definition of a wetland.

The walk proceeded east along the haul road, to the northern edge of the pond, and then followed a fishing trail back west along the top of bank adjacent to the pond for approximately 150 ft. This is the approximate location of the eastern edge of the proposed mitigation area. George Logan described the existing vegetation and the proposal for the mitigation, discussing the required excavation and replanting that is proposed. Ed Pawlak asked a few clarifying questions.

The group wanted to see the location where the pond outlets to the Farmington River, so we retraced our path and at the first area of standing water headed south / southeast toward the outlet from the pond to the Farmington River. General observations were made about the relative water height between the pond and river. On this occurrence, both water levels were low and no flow was observed between the two.

The site walk ended at approximately 10:30 am.