

September 25, 2024

Roger LeBlanc
14 Mill Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

RE: Wetland Evaluation at 470 Essex Street, Hamilton, MA

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Wetlands & Land Management, Inc. has completed our evaluation of wetland resource areas at your property at 470 Essex Street in Hamilton. This work was completed on September 13, 2024.

Wetlands on the site were evaluated using delineation methodology established in the Wetlands Protection Act and the Department of Environmental Protection "Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands Handbook" revised 2022, and the US Army Corps of Engineers Manual (1987). These regulations and methodology incorporate the evaluation of hydric soils, predominance of wetland vegetation and wetland hydrology to evaluate the upper limit of vegetated wetlands. These methods are appropriate to evaluate the limits of wetlands in the Town of Hamilton.

The site is presently undeveloped and wooded throughout the lot. The parcel is a pie-shaped lot just over 40,000 square feet in area. Essex Street provides frontage to the south. A large lot is located directly to the right/ east of the site. Two residential homes off Whipple Street abut the property to the left/ west. The property forms the point of the "pie" at the rear of the lot

The topography at the front of the site is gently sloping towards away from the street. The wetland boundary follows a distinct drop in slope across the width of the property, roughly 120 feet off the road frontage.

Bordering Vegetated Wetlands

I had reviewed wetlands on this property several years ago. Now in 2024, I refreshed/ reflagged the wetland boundary although site conditions had not changed since my prior work. I placed blue surveyors flagging labeled 100 to 112 to delineate the upper limit of bordering vegetated wetlands across the width of the site. Flag 100 begins at the west side of the property. The flag line trends easterly to the opposite side of the property with flag 112 placed at the stone wall property boundary on this side of the lot.

The flags mark the upper edge of a State and locally protected bordering vegetated wetland.

All flags are located along a distinct bottom of slope across the width of the property. The boundary is strongly controlled by topography and there is little room for deviation or difference of opinion along the wetland boundary.

Rare Species

The MassMapper GIS data viewer indicates the parcel is not within estimated habitat of rare wetlands wildlife or priority habitat of threatened or endangered species. There are no certified vernal pools in the project vicinity.

I trust this information will be useful to you. Be advised, the Conservation Commission is the authority that will make a final determination of the limits of resource areas.

Sincerely,

Wetlands & Land Management, Inc.

William Manuell

William J. Manuell
Wetland Scientist