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Douglas K. Brush, Chairman
Town of Montville Inland Wetlands Commission
310 Norwich-New London Road
Uncasville, CT 06382

June 6, 2025

RE: ADDITIONAL INLAND WETLAND SOILS AND WATERCOURSES INVESTIGATION AND DELINEATION, NOBLE HILL (PARCEL ID:061-002-000), OWNER JEFFRY PHILLIPS & JENNIFER MICHAELS

Dear Mr. Brush:

I understand that at you last meeting there were additional items that the Commission would like addressed.

On June 5, 2025, I visited the site again to delineate any inland wetland soils and/or watercourse that may exist on the upstream and downstream side of the watercourse crossing that has 15"HDPE pipe. Again, there is no erosion and the pipe is functioning well. There is no plans to remove this pipe crossing.

I sampled the soil throughout this area of concern using a soil auger to a depth of two to three feet. Based on my field observations and using the guidelines established by the National Cooperative Soil Survey and as defined by the Connecticut General Statutes, I delineated the wetlands using blue flagging numbered 1-4, 5-9, 10-11, 12-14 respectively.

Mark Reynolds indicated to me that his survey crew would be out there later that day to locate the additional wetland flags and locate the temporary structure

I also investigated and tested an area of concern that was a small, excavated area closer to the entrance to the overall site. There were subsoil physical characteristics that would indicate the presence of an inland wetland soil. The upland soils in this entire area are classified as a well-drained Canton and Charlton fine sandy loam.

Another concern was whether the down-slope excavation has negatively affected the wetland hydrology in the excavation area to the west.

The answer is no. there was and is not any impact on the wetland hydrology in the excavation area. Those very deep deposits of the well drained Canton and Charlton soils have a very high hydraulic drainage capacity, which refers to the maximum volume of flow that a drainage system can transport. Nowhere in the bottom or side slopes of the excavated area has signs of any water seepage.

Again, I am pleased to report that there are no impacts to the Trading Cove Brook riparian corridor. This system is of high value and provides many wetland functions.

PROPOSED MITIGATION

The small inland wetlands area disturbed and temporarily stabilized with wood chips, shall be permanently restored and stabilized.

First, Mr. Phillips has agreed to remove the structure that is being used to store two boats. They will be removed to an area of the property that is upland soils.

The wood chips can remain and additional 4 inches of organic topsoil shall be deposited in this area. The area shall then be seeded with a conservation wet-mix that contains native species and promotes and attracts pollinator species. This area will not be mowed.

In addition, along the top of slope to the south of the delineated wetlands 12 native shrub species, such as winterberry, highbush blueberry, silky dogwood, swamp azalea, and sweet pepper bush will be planted to enhance the vegetative diversity of the area. This will provide food and shelter to existing wildlife in the area.

If this work is approved, it can be completed by the end of June. The shrubs and the wet-mix can be watered regularly during this time. I would caution the Commission that performing this work after the end of June, should be delayed to the beginning of September because of the warm temperatures that are not conducive for planting and establishing ground cover.

Once the plantings have been completed, the planting will be inspected by me every two months until the end of fall 2025. Subsequently, they will be inspected in the spring for 3 consecutive years to ensure their survivability.

Again, Mr. Phillips has not done any work on the site since the issuance of your order. However, some work needs to be completed as soon as possible.

Based on my professional opinion as a Certified Soil Scientist and years of experience as a City Planner, I feel that this approach will negate the need to move forward with additional enforcement actions and will maintain and improve the existing high quality functions of Trading cove Brook and the environmental quality of the land.

Very truly yours.

James Sipperly

Certified Soil Scientist, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England
Connecticut Wetland Scientist, Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists