

October 13, 2020

Ron Wolff
Wolff Engineering
Cornerstone Professional Park, Suite C101
39 Sherman Hill Road
Woodbury, CT 06798

RE: Vernal Pool Protection Measures
300 Pratt Street & 960 Johnson Avenue
Southington, CT

Mr. Wolff,

The single onsite wetland includes what appears to be a historically excavated pond which has the characteristics of a vernal pool. Specifically, there is a confined basin with a constricted outlet, evidence of a seasonally flooded hydrology, and the wetland is embedded within a forested landscape. Therefore, this wetland has the potential to serve as a breeding site for obligate vernal pool amphibians. This potential vernal pool is located at the northern terminus of the onsite wetland between wetland flags 14-17 on the west side and 8-11 on the east.

A single residence with onsite sewage disposal system is proposed to the west of the potential vernal pool, with access via an existing woods road located along the northern tip of the wetland.

The two most critical vernal pool protection measures that can be employed to prevent impact to the pool itself as well as the terrestrial upland forest utilized by vernal pool amphibians during the non-breeding season are: (1) maintain pre-construction hydrology (i.e., do not alter contributing groundwater or surface water inputs); and (2) maintain a 100-foot undisturbed upland forested buffer around the pool.

Through review of the plans and consultation with your office as well as Dave Lavallo at the Town of Southington, the following measures were discussed to minimize impacts to the potential vernal pool:

1. Install a *Vegetated Filter Strip* that will capture and infiltrate surface runoff from the proposed residential lawn. This will promote groundwater infiltration and improved filtration of residential fertilizers and pesticides.

2. Restrict major construction activities (tree clearing and site grading) from occurring during the primarily adult amphibian migration and breeding period (movement both into and out of the pool). This period varies from season to season depending upon the weather, but typical occurs between February 28th and May 15th.
3. Minimize forest clearing/tree removal within 100 feet of the pool. Move the limits of disturbance as far west as possible to maximize protection of tree cover near the pool.
4. Install a series of boulders along the easterly limits of disturbance to prevent future homeowner encroachment towards the wetlands.
5. During construction, utilize erosion control measures that will not impede amphibian movement. Such measures include coir fiber logs or straw wattles. Be sure that these measures do not include fine (<1") mesh plastic netting that can entrap amphibians and other wildlife. Natural netting material with a minimum mesh size of over 1" is preferable.

If you have any questions regarding my findings, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Davison

Wildlife Biologist

Certified Professional Wetland Scientist