

Date: April 16, 2014

To: Ms. Allison Steinfeld
Planning Director

From: Lenore White, WSI
Philip Paradis, PE *PP*

BETA Project #: 3294

Subject: Residences at South Brookline
Potential Vernal Pool Evaluation

At the request of the Town of Brookline and on behalf of BETA Group, Lenore White of Wetland Strategies, Inc. (WSI) visited the site on April 10, 2014 to make a preliminary determination of whether the low area on Lot 1 is a potential vernal pool. WSI offered the following report:

Phil, pursuant to your request, Wetland Strategies visited the subject site today to review the area for a presence of any indicators of a vernal pool. Now is a good time to do so, as the spring amphibian breeding season has begun.

Upon arrival at the site, I noted two areas to be investigated. One was an area where yellow flagging tape encircled a low, flat area. The other was located at the terminus of a concrete drainage pipe, which appears to convey storm water from Independence Drive onto the site.

The encircled area was observed to be free of any standing water. The leaf litter was dense and underneath, the soils were saturated. Upon close observation of the underlying soils, roots and decaying leaves, I did not observe any evidence of a vernal pool. I expect that if the area functioned to provide breeding habitat, there would have been some evidence including fingernail clams, caddisfly larvae, crawling water beetles, midges, water mites or amphipods. None of these were observed. Based on the lack of standing water and no evidence of vernal pool species, I concluded that this area does not constitute a potential vernal pool.

Likewise, the area at the culvert outlet did not contain any evidence of a potential vernal pool. Standing water was observed at the end of the pipe, as shown in the attached photos. Despite the standing water, I did not observe any of the above indicators or any other indicators such as fairy shrimp, mosquito larvae, egg masses, copepods, snails, aquatic worms or aquatic beetles. Based on these observations, this area too does not currently support any evidence of a potential vernal pool.

I note that the MA GIS system of information does not show any certified vernal pools or potential vernal pools in the area (Source: NHESP map).

Please be aware however that these observations apply to this year's breeding season. It is impossible to conclude whether either area would function as a vernal pool in any other year as evidence is known to vary from year to year.



Photos of Evaluated Low Area on Southeast Portion of Lot 1

