

Memorandum:

To: Town of Washington Planning Board
From: Steve Marino, PWS
Date: 11/4/24
Subject: Proposed Clear Subdivision, Woodstock Road

As the Town's retained Wetland Consultant, I reviewed the original submission materials for the proposed subdivision application for the subject property in accordance with the Town's Wetlands and Watercourse Law (Town Code Section 396, adopted 2011) and other environmental concerns. I prepared a review memo dated September 3, 2024 related to this initial review.

In reviewing these materials, I noted that three of the site wetlands, Wetlands E, H and J, were preliminarily identified as having potential habitat for bog turtles, which are known to be found in the Town of Washington. In response to my comments, a Phase 1 Bog Turtle Habitat Assessment dated October 18, 2024 was completed by Edgewood Environmental Consulting for Wetlands E, H and J, which are relatively close to the proposed development areas.

This report examined the three wetlands in great detail, assessing the soils and hydrologic conditions as well as vegetative community and comparing these conditions with known habitat requirements for the species in this part of southeastern New York.

The report concluded that based on a number of factors the identified wetlands were very unlikely to provide suitable habitat for bog turtles. These factors include the forested cover over the majority of the wetland areas, lack of optimum soils/hydrology conditions, and lack of potential habitat connections to other wetlands where habitat may be available. Bog turtles have a relatively small home range, and the nearest potential location identified by the DEC is likely to be more than two miles from the site, too far for individuals to travel without a suitable wetland corridor in which to move.

Following a review of the report, I conducted a second site walk to confirm the conditions as described in the report. Based on this review, it is my opinion that the conclusions reached in the report are appropriate, and that no further work is necessary related to bog turtle habitat.

That is the extent of my comments at this time. Please let me know if the Board has any additional questions.

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