

EXISTING CONDITIONS NARRATIVE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Ms. Joelle Riddell (Proponent), South River Environmental (SRE) is submitting this Request for Determination of Applicability for the construction of a deck on an existing single-family residence located at 28 Butler Road. The work is proposed within the 100-foot buffer zone to an isolated vegetated wetland that has been certified as a vernal pool by the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Both resource areas are subject to the jurisdiction under the Town of Hingham Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The IVW may also function as isolated land subject to flooding which is an area also subject to protection under the MA Wetlands Protection Act.

2.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The site currently consists of a developed single-family house lot approximately 0.27 acres in area (See Section III, Figures 1 and 2). There is an existing residence located within the central portion of the site. There is an existing paved driveway that extends from Butler Road south into the property the residence. The remainder of the lot consists of maintained lawn and a sparsely forested area associated with the isolated vegetated wetland. The lot is bordered to the north by Butler Road, to the east and west by residential development and to the south by the isolated vegetated wetland.

The upland within the property consists of a mix of previously disturbed areas associated with the residence and forest. Non-lawn or ornamental vegetation within upland portions of the property consist of red oak (*Quercus rubra*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*). Review of the current Massachusetts Natural Heritage datalayers on MassGIS indicates that there are no estimated habitats of rare wildlife present within the proposed project location. The isolated vegetated wetland has been certified as a vernal pool (CVP 2004.0000) (See Section III, Figure 3). According to FEMA, the site is not located within the 100-year floodplain (bordering land subject to flooding) (MA GIS 2021) (See Section III, Figure 4).

3.0 WETLAND RESOURCE AREAS

On April 6, 2021, the portion of the isolated vegetated wetland within and directly adjacent to the subject property was delineated by a South River Environmental (“SRE”) wetland scientist. The field review was conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Hingham Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

3.1 Isolated Vegetated Wetland

There is one IVW system located partially within the property and extending further to the south. The delineated wetland boundary consists of a pink survey flag series labeled WF-1 through WF-6. The vegetation within the wetland is dominated by red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) in the overstory. Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) and Northern arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) comprise the most prevalent shrub species. Common greenbriar is dominant in the vine / herbaceous layers. Soils within the wetland were characterized by muck and there was a significant area of open water further to the south of the subject property. Based on the size of the IVW, it may hold sufficient volume to function as isolated land subject to flooding (1/4-acre foot volume). The IVW has also been certified as a vernal pool by MA Natural Heritage based on the presence of obligate breeding species such as wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) and spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*).

4.0 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The applicant is proposing to construct a 12-foot long by 16-foot wide deck off the southwest (rear) of the existing residence. The deck will extend from an existing deck located off the western side of the residence and extend south into the existing yard. The deck will be supported on sonotubes and will not have a foundation. The deck will be located within an area that is currently maintained lawn within the 100-foot buffer zone to the IVW. No project work is proposed within the 50-foot no-disturbance buffer. Erosion controls will be installed at the limit of work prior to any earth disturbance.

To mitigate for the proposed activities within the 50 to 100-foot buffer zone, the proponent is proposing to install a total of 20 highbush blueberry shrubs within open areas at the southeast corner of the lawn currently contains an open understory. In addition to the plantings, the applicant will also remove yard waste that has been deposited within the 50-foot buffer zone. The buffer zone enhancement is approximately 200 square feet in area and will be completed prior to or concurrent with the proposed deck construction.

5.0 EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

5.1 Erosion Controls

Temporary erosion controls consisting of compost filter sock or equivalent will be installed prior to commencement of construction activities within the property. All temporary erosion control devices will be inspected daily in areas of active construction to ensure proper functioning and maintenance. The erosion controls shall remain in place until written approval for removal is issued by the Commission.

5.2 Site Stabilization

The final phase of the project is the restoration and stabilization of all exposed surfaces. Disturbed areas will be reseeded. Permanent restoration and revegetation measures serve to control erosion and sedimentation by establishing a vegetative cover. In the event weather conditions prevent final restoration, temporary erosion and sedimentation measures will be employed until the weather is suitable for final cleanup. A final inspection will ensure that the project site has been permanently stabilized. Erosion controls will not be removed until the site is stabilized, and the final inspection is complete.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Observation: View of rear of house. New deck will extend off existing deck on left of house.



Observation: View of IVW / vernal pool facing south.



Observation: View of back yard facing south toward IVW.



Observation: View of southeast corner of property. Lawn waste will be removed and restored with highbush blueberry plants.

Legend

Approximate Limit
of 100-foot Buffer
Zone

RDA Site Plan
28 Butler Road

28 Butler Rd

Proposed 12'x16'
Deck

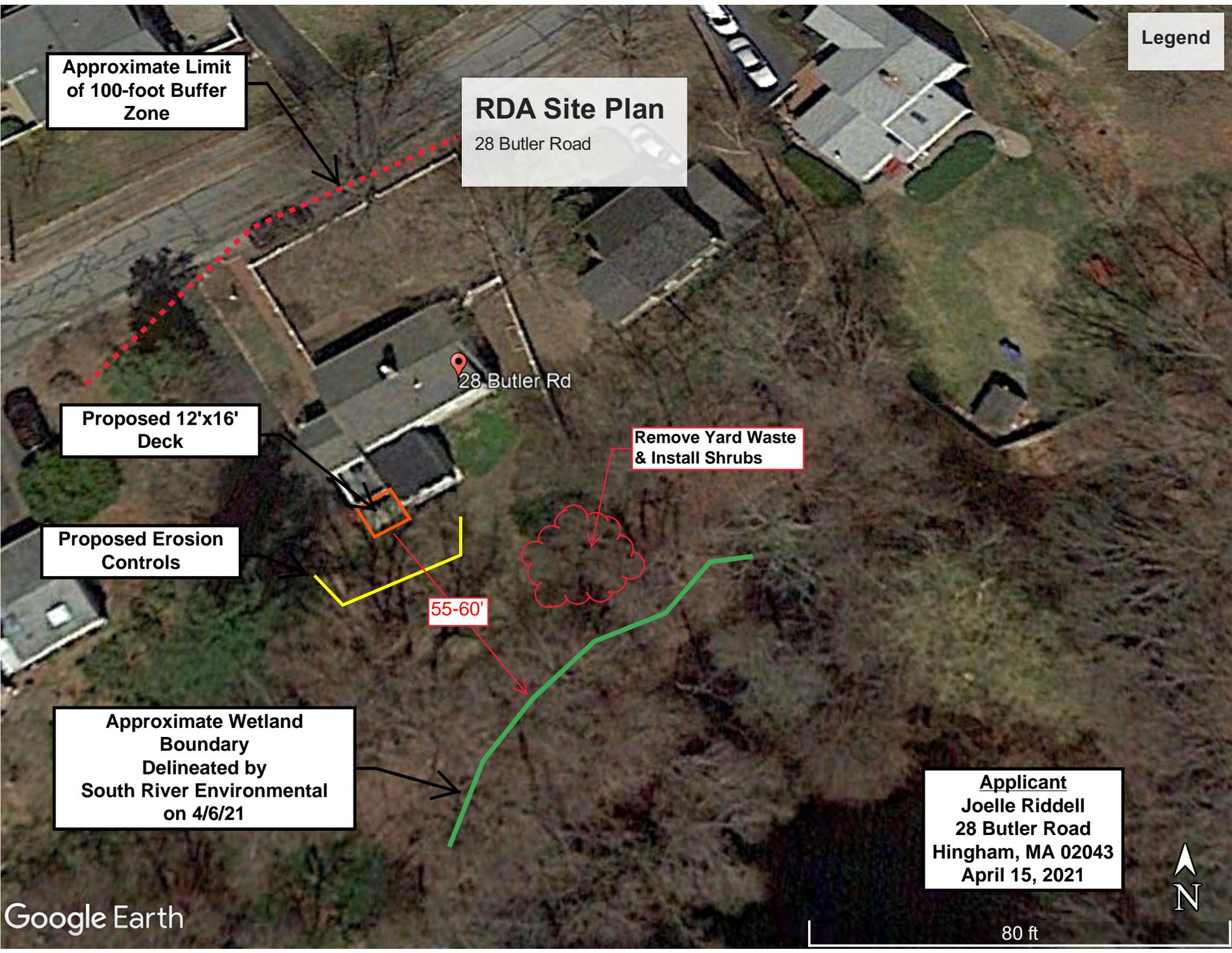
Remove Yard Waste
& Install Shrubs

Proposed Erosion
Controls

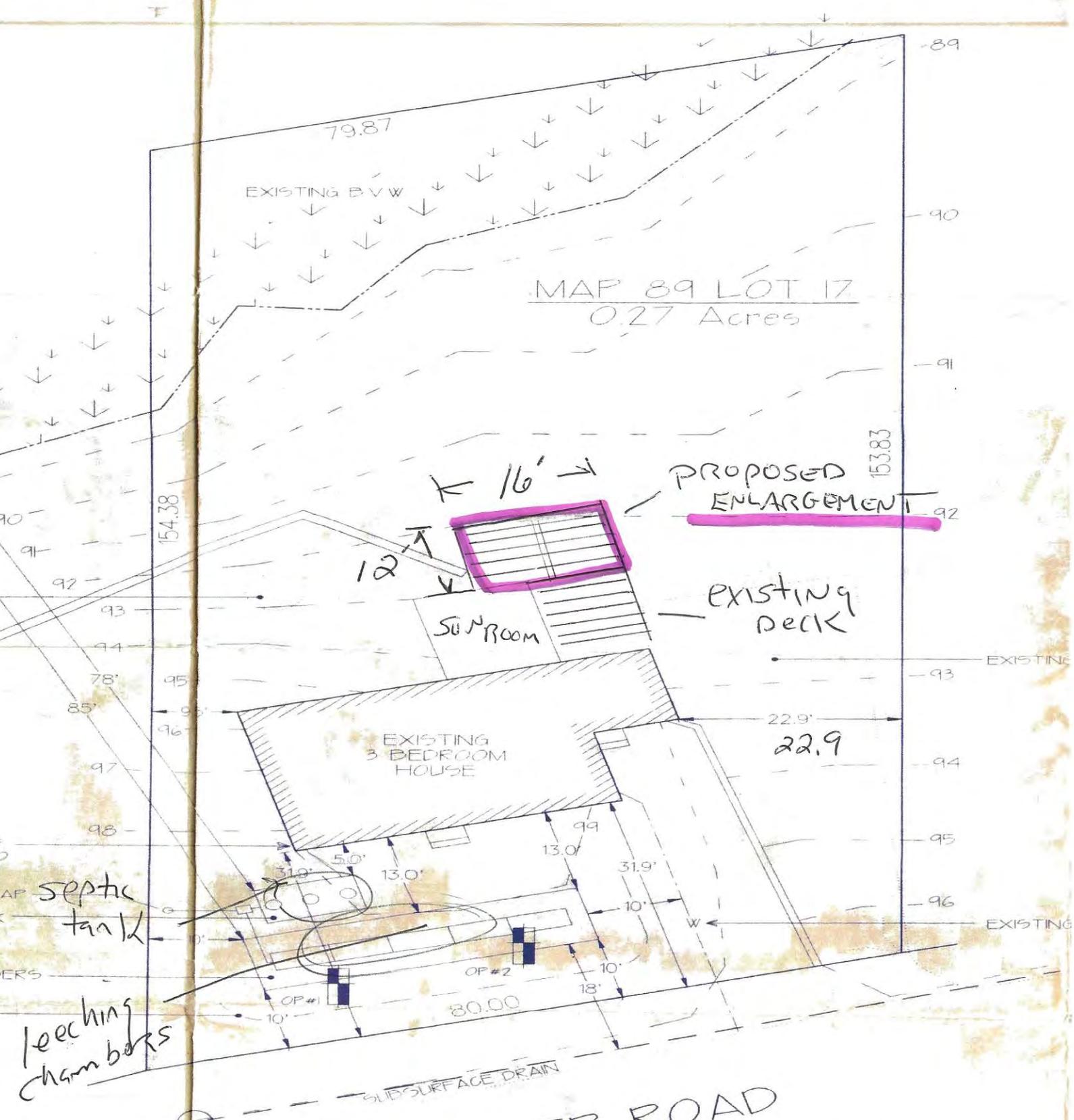
55-60'

Approximate Wetland
Boundary
Delineated by
South River Environmental
on 4/6/21

Applicant
Joelle Riddell
28 Butler Road
Hingham, MA 02043
April 15, 2021



MAP 89 LOT 17
0.27 Acres



BUTLER ROAD

28 BUTLER
JOEL RIPPDELL
JEFF MIGRE
617 922 2346

ING MANHOLE
LEV 90.44

AMED AND SEEDED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTION. PROPOSED EXISTING