

INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC.  
162 West Long Pond Road, Plymouth, MA 02360  
508-224-6731

October 13, 2017

Philip Austin  
156 East Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

Re: 156 East Street, Hingham, MA

Mr. Austin,

This letter is an environmental assessment report concerning the above mentioned residential property located at 156 East Street, Hingham, MA. This residential property borders on East Street, Summer Street, and Kilby Street. Independent Environmental Consultants, Inc. (IEC) conducted a site inspection and evaluation of the subject property on 10-12-17, to determine the presence of any wetland resource areas. The day of the site inspection was sunny, dry, and 61 degrees. This inspection occurred during the Fall season, during the growing season, with full leaf-out conditions.

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS

The subject property contains an existing house, barn structure, and a gravel driveway. The property contains upland grass areas, and two non-active garden areas (upper garden and lower garden). The two garden areas are bordered by upland areas of land with similar topography. The existing gravel driveway separates the upper garden from the lower garden. Existing natural surface water runoff and groundwater flows into the low-lying garden areas. Existing site topography drops in elevation from Summer Street down gradient through the subject property to the east, towards Route 3A. Existing stormwater runoff and drainage from Summer Street is directed onto the subject property, and drains into the upper garden area. There is a gravel area at the intersection of Summer Street and Kilby Street, which directs water onto the subject property. There is a pipe located under the existing gravel driveway within the subject property, between the upper garden area and the lower garden area, to allow any water from the upper garden area, to flow downgradient into the lower garden area, which is lower in topography than the upper garden area. No standing water has been observed within the upper garden area, or within the lower garden area. Both garden areas are bordered by upland grass areas of land with similar topography as the garden areas.

#### ATYPICAL AREAS

The upper and lower garden areas are past altered areas of land, with past altered soil conditions and past altered vegetated areas. The non-active upper garden and the lower garden areas both contain areas with a mixture of upland vegetative species, and wetland vegetative species. The existing emergent plant species include the following plant species: Sensitive Fern, Joe-Pye Weed, Yellow Iris (invasive plant species), and upland grass species. Upland grass areas containing upland grass species border on the two garden areas. Existing topography is similar within the two garden areas and the adjacent upland grass areas of land. IEC dug numerous test holes within the two garden areas, to

observe the existing underlying soils and hydrological conditions. Within the lower garden area, many of the test hole areas had rock refusal at 5". Exposed rock areas exist within the lower garden and within the bordering grass field areas located adjacent to the lower garden. There was also rock refusal within test holes within the upper garden area.

#### TEST HOLES

Test Hole 1, located within the lower garden, has fine sandy loam soils (10YR-3-2) 0 – 9", and fine sandy loam soils (10YR-3-3) 9 – 24", aerated soils, with no groundwater encountered to a depth of 25", and no saturated soil conditions. Test Hole 2, located within the upper garden area, has fine sandy loam soils (10YR-3-2) 0 – 22", aerated soils, with no groundwater encountered to a depth of 22", and no saturated soil conditions. Test Hole 3, also located within the upper garden area, has fine sandy loam soils (10YR-3-2) 0 – 15", aerated soils, with no groundwater encountered to a depth of 15", and there was rock refusal at a depth of 15". No wetland hydrology exists within the upper garden area or the lower garden area; no groundwater was observed; and no saturated or hydric soil conditions were observed within the upper or lower garden areas. Both garden areas are classified as upland (non-wetland) areas of land. Both garden areas are underlain by granite boulders, resulting in rock refusal of soil tests in many locations, and these underlying boulders reduce the infiltration rates and percolation rates of water within the soils, within both garden areas. The low-lying upper garden area receives off property stormwater runoff -water flows from Summer Street, during storm events. The two garden areas receive natural surface water runoff from lands within increased topography, located within this property. The test holes show that the soils within the two garden areas are upland aerated soils (fine sandy loams), with no hydric soils, and no hydrological conditions associated with wetland hydrology. Both garden areas are classified as upland areas of land.

It should be noted that just to the east of the eastern property line of the subject property, which is located downgradient of the lower garden area, there is an existing residential house located on Route 3A, with a parking area, and surrounded by upland grass areas. This off-property upland area with an existing house is located within an area of land with reduced topography, which is located downgradient and downslope of the previously mentioned lower garden and upper garden area within the subject property.

#### CONCLUSION

The subject residential property (156 East Main Street) does not contain any state regulated wetland resource areas, or wetland buffer zone areas. The subject residential property does not contain any town regulated wetland resource areas, or wetland buffer zone areas. The subject residential property is classified as upland (non-wetland) areas of land.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Paul J. Shea, PWS  
President