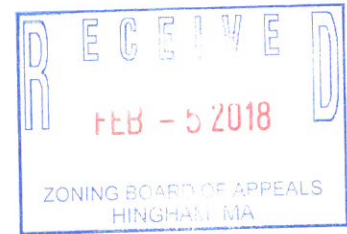


TOWN OF HINGHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Zoning Board of Appeals
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

February 5, 2018

RE: Proposed 40B Development at Viking Lane

Dear Members of the Board,

Per your request, I have reviewed the latest plan set entitled "Comprehensive Permit Plan known as River Stone, Hingham, Massachusetts," prepared by McKenzie Engineering Group, Inc. and revised January 19, 2018, and the "Wetland Lines Exhibit," prepared by Amory Engineers, P.C. and presented to the Board on January 25, 2018.

I also reviewed the Conservation Office's file on the same property, which includes a January 2001 Notice of Intent (NOI) application for a definitive subdivision and an Order of Conditions, which was issued in October 2001. The NOI application indicates that the wetlands were delineated by Key Environmental Services, Inc. in 1993 and Daylor Consulting Group, Inc. in 2000. This line is shown on the "Wetland Lines Exhibit." Nothing in the file indicates that the delineation was peer reviewed, which means that it was likely reviewed by the Conservation Agent at the time and accepted by the Conservation Commission (Commission) upon the issuance of the Order of Conditions.

Under the Hingham Wetland Regulations (Regulations), resource area delineations can be reviewed and approved or denied by the Commission through an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation or NOI application. Part I, Sections 7.3 and 7.4 of the Regulations outline the procedures for each of these applications, including the Commission's ability to request additional information from the applicant. Part I, Section 13.2 of the Regulations also gives the Commission the ability to "impose reasonable fees for the employment of outside consultants...for specific expert services deemed necessary...to come to a final decision on an application..." It has been the Commission's practice to hire an outside consultant for projects that are similar to the one proposed on Viking Lane.

I recommend that the Board engage a Professional Wetland Scientist to help resolve the discrepancy identified on the "Wetland Lines Exhibit" and verify the delineation shown on the current plan set. Should the Board have any immediate questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Loni M. Fournier
Senior Planner: Conservation/GIS

Cc: Emily Wentworth, Senior Planner: Zoning/Special Projects