

APRIL 1, 2024

Plympton Conservation Commission  
5 Palmer Road  
Plympton, MA 02367  
RE: Plympton Wetland Protection Bylaws – Waiver Request from Performance Standards

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider this letter as formal written request for a waiver from the performance standards of the Plympton Wetland Protection Bylaws for Vegetated Wetlands (Section 16(C)). For a complete description of the project, the inability to comply with performance standards, and full avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, please see the submitted Notice of Intent dated February 27, 2024.

### Proposed Limited Driveway Crossing

The proposed project is limited to the construction of a residential driveway which will require a wetland crossing through Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) for access to an upland area for one single-family home development. The project is being proposed as a limited project under 310 CMR 10.53(e) construction of a limited driveway crossing for access to a single-family home.

The proposed project includes about 2,800 square feet of fill within BVW, 300 square feet of disturbance within the 25-foot “no touch zone”, as well as 300 square feet of disturbance within the 25 – 50-foot “no alteration zone”.

Advanced efforts have been made in an attempt to find alternative access to the property in order to avoid the need for a wetland crossing. These alternatives include:

- Alternative entrance from abutting property.
- Alternative entrance from 16-foot easement.
- Bridging or spanning resource area.
- No build, in turn this would result in a taking.

Significant time has been spent ensuring the proposed limited driveway crossing would result in the most minimal impacts as possible. Minimization includes:

- Ensuring driveway is minimal width that would comply with Town Zoning requirements.
- Driveway crosses BVW at its most narrow point.
- Impacted BVW is low quality, roadside drainage, away from the larger wetland complex.
- Proposed area is already subject to tree clearing by electric utility companies.
- Limited tree clearing.
- Installation of culverts to maintain hydrologic connections.
- Installation of sediment and erosion controls.
- Commitment to inspect and maintain erosion controls throughout construction.
- Installation of a stone entrance to limit sediment tracking off site.
- Restore areas to allow for quick revegetation and stabilization.

Mitigation for the proposed limited driveway crossing include:

- 2:1 wetland replication.
- Creation of higher quality, forested wetland in an undisturbed part of the larger wetland complex.

The proposed limited driveway crossing provides the following public benefits:

- An increase in tax revenue for the Town as the project will lead to the construction of a single-family home.
- Beneficial increase to wildlife health and habitat in the local ecosystem.
- An increase to the wetland systems flood storage capacity.
- Increased efficiency of groundwater infiltration.
- Relieved pressure on the local wetland habitat as only one single-family home will be constructed on a nearly 6-acre parcel of upland.
- Applicant is offering their services for vernal pool certifications on public lands throughout Town.

Based on the minimization and mitigation measures contained herein, the proposed project is not expected to adversely affect the ability of the vegetated wetland to function to protect the wetland values. The approval of the proposed limited driveway crossing provides a benefit to the Plympton community's health and welfare as described above.

We hope the Commission sees the proposed limited driveway crossing as a favorable option to accessing the large plot of upland for one single-family home site, as it has proved to be the only available option for accessing the land.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Patrick and Alicia Hutchinson. The signature on the left is 'Patrick' and the one on the right is 'Alicia Hutchinson'.

**Patrick & Alicia Hutchinson**