



## *Town of Lancaster*

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Office of the  
Conservation Agent

September 18, 2018

Matthew Mayo  
Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals

**RE: Recommended wildlife studies and habitat assessments for site of proposed Goodridge Brook Estates**


Dear Chairman Mayo:

Pursuant to your request for additional information pursuant to Conservation Commission Chairman Nathan Stevens' August 20, 2018 letter conveying the Commission's recommendation that the Zoning Board of Appeals require wildlife studies/habitat assessments on the site proposed for Goodridge Brook Estates, the following three separate surveys and inventories of the site's native biodiversity, each conducted by a separate consultant who is an expert in the particular subject area, are recommended:

- Plants and Natural Communities, including, but not limited to, State-listed rare species and Species of Conservation Concern;
- Wetland wildlife and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, vernal pools and the species dependent on them for breeding and other habitat functions at some point during their annual lifecycles (a number of such species move throughout the calendar year between a mosaic of different habitats that may extend well outside the Conservation Commission's statutory regulatory jurisdiction);
- Breeding birds, including, but not limited to, species known to be in decline, and State-listed rare species and Species of Conservation Concern.

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, §53G, all consultants would be selected and hired by the Conservation Commission and work under the Commission's direction at the Applicant's expense. As it is currently "out of season" for the majority, if not most, of the species potentially identifiable on the site, it is not possible at this time to obtain meaningful results from the proposed studies; it is therefore recommended that the Board of Appeals hold the hearing open through the spring and early summer of 2019 in order that the surveys and inventories can be conducted at the appropriate time of year, thereby allowing for the proper assessment of the potential impact of the project on native flora and fauna. Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can provide you with any additional information on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
David M. Koonce  
Conservation Agent