



DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581
p: (508) 389-6300 | f: (508) 389-7890
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To whom it may concern,

According to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife fish survey records, Goodridge Brook is considered an exceptional wild trout stream that supports a very abundant population of native Eastern Brook Trout. As such, we have legitimate concerns regarding the potential impacts of Goodridge Brook Estates (Sterling Road, Lancaster), a proposed development just upslope from the main brook and situated amongst important forested wetland habitat and two unnamed tributary streams.

There are a number of general concerns with the clearing of forest and conversion to impervious surfaces near streams and wetlands but, our main concern involves the two streams on the property that to this point have been considered “intermittent”. After a site visit on 2/26/2019 there seems to be a valid argument whether or not these two brooks are perennial or intermittent. These two unnamed tributaries drain relatively large wetlands on-site, and have sufficient flow and well-developed channels suggesting that they may be perennial. If these streams are indeed perennial there is a strong possibility that they may harbor populations of wild Brook Trout, or at the very least, act as coldwater refuges to trout from the mainstem of Goodridge Brook.

We would appreciate the opportunity to revisit these two unnamed tributaries that drain the wetlands on the proposed development site and conduct standardized fish surveys to look for the presence of coldwater fish. Our standard surveys are conducted in July or August and could be done easily in one day.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Adam Kautza | PhD

Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

p: (508) 389-6302 | e: adam.kautza@state.ma.us