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November 18, 2020

David Koonce, Agent
Lancaster Conservation Commission
Prescott Building
701 Main Street, Suite 4
Lancaster, MA 01523 via email (dkoonce@lancasterma.net)

Re: 97 Woodland Meadow Drive

Subject: Implementation of Proposed Restoration Measures: Status Report

Dear Mr. Koonce and Commission Members:

This letter-report summarizes the implementation of the wetland restoration measures proposed in my October 8, 2020 letter to the Commission submitted on behalf of Brian Deciero of 97 Woodland Meadow Drive. The work was implemented as authorized by the Commission's Enforcement Order. Pine Ridge Farm Landscaping of Boylston conducted the work under my direction.

Proposed Restoration Work Completed:

- 1. Wood chip removal: Where wood chips were present in the BVW, the chips were collected with a mini tracked excavator with a grading bucket (no teeth) and workers using rakes and shovels, and placed into a small dump truck for reuse off site. I inspected the removal area and it is my opinion that the removal was consistent with my specification. As proposed, some remnant wood chips remain, but in my opinion the removal was sufficient to expose the vast majority of the native wetland topsoil, and allow for growth of planted and remnant wetland vegetation, but not overly aggressive to the point that it would eliminate any remnant wetland vegetation that may re-sprout in the spring.
- 2. <u>Planting</u>: Plant stock was obtained from New England Wetland Plants, to ensure native species and cultivars. A copy of the plant stock invoice is attached. I personally supervised the layout of the proposed plants, to match the hydrology across the planting

area (e.g. winterberry were placed primarily in the lowest/ wettest portions). Attached are photographs of the area shortly before (plants in containers) and after planting. Note that many of the planted specimens are leafless due to autumn leaf drop. During my inspections I have observed scattered growth of native wetland herbaceous species, including sedges (Cyperaceae spp.) and skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). It is my opinion that the native wetland hydrology of the affected Bordering Vegetated Wetland remains intact throughout the altered area;

- 3. <u>Erosion Control</u>: My evaluation of the site indicated that following several significant rain events since the subject clearing, there is no evidence of erosion beyond the work area into unaffected BVW. As previously described, the unmitigated roadway storm drain discharge has deposited sand and scoured the area directly below the concrete pipe discharge. Some stone was added and the scour appears to have stabilized, so that the mobilized soil remains localized to the low point within the cleared area. Therefore, as a field change, I recommended against the installation of the limited wattle described in my restoration protocol, to avoid the unnecessary placement of additional foreign matter into the wetland.
- 4. <u>Proposed monitoring</u>: It is proposed to provide monitoring with status reports to the Commission in the spring and fall for two years (apx May and September). Monitoring will include representative photographs, as well as a summary of plant vigor, percent cover, and hydrology within the restoration area.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this or other matters.

Sincerely,

Paul J. McManus, PWS

President

Enclosures

- Packing list from New England Wetland Plants
- Site photographs

C: Brian Deciero - owner

Packing List from New England Wetland Plants

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Site Photographs: 97 Woodland Meadow Drive – dates as noted



Plants laid out for planting



Plants laid out for planting



Plants laid out for planting Remaining pile of wood chips for removal



Plants laid out for planting

Site Photographs: 97 Woodland Meadow Drive – dates as noted



Typical Wood chip removal area after planting



Eastern portion of restoration area after planting



Skunk cabbage early growth



Central and western portion of restoration area after planting



West end of restoration area after planting



View east from west end of restoration area after planting