



Town of Coventry

Land Use Office - Wetlands

1712 Main Street • Coventry, CT 06238

Planning • Zoning • Wetlands • Economic Development • Conservation

Phone: 860 742-4062 Fax: 860 742-4059 Web: Coventry-ct.gov



Wetlands Violation Timeline

Property Owner: David Frechette

Address: 77 Tall Oak Drive

Description of violation: Unpermitted material deposition in regulated area.

Town of Coventry Staff:

Lindsay Beutler, Wetlands Agent

Todd Penney, Town Engineer

Jana Roberson, Director of Planning and Development/ Acting Zoning enforcement Officer

Heidi Leech, Zoning Enforcement Officer

Kenneth R. Slater, Jr, Halloran Sage Attorney, retained by Town of Coventry

James Drumm, Town Manager

Hank Gruner, Herpetologist

David Frechette, property owner

Dorian Reiser, formally known as Dorian Famiglietti, KKC Law Land Use Attorney, retained by Frechette

George Logan, Environmental Scientist of Rema Ecological Services LLC

06/17/2024 – Town of Coventry Land Use Office received an anonymous letter from a concerned citizen alleging Mr. Frechette filled in a pond to create a pickleball court.

06/21/2024 – Beutler and Penney drafted a notice and mailed it Certified Mail, requesting Frechette call and set up a site visit to investigate the claims in the anonymous letter.

07/09/2024 – Frechette called Beutler to schedule a site visit but had to leave a voicemail because Beutler was on vacation.

07/15/2024 – Beutler called Frechette to schedule site visit for 7/22/2024.

07/19/2024 – Beutler was notified that Frechette had tracked dirt into the road. Beutler and Frechette spoke about cleaning up the road and Beutler asked that Frechette not bring any more material in.

07/22/2024 – Beutler and Penney met with Frechette on site. It was determined that a substantial amount of fill was brought in. There is no longer a pond onsite. Frechette installed a pickleball court and was in the process of creating a driving range for golfing. Further investigation is necessary to determine where the pond used to be. Beutler and Penney asked that Frechette be present for the Inland Wetlands Agency meeting on 07/24/2024. Penney explained that Frechette needed to hire a land surveyor to field survey the total limit of disturbance on the site. Beutler followed up with Frechette in an email to provide him with the Agenda for the IWA meeting.

7/23/2024 – Frechette called Beutler to discuss hiring a Certified Soil Scientist and a CT Licensed Land Surveyor and confirmed he would attend the Inland Wetlands Agency meeting on 7/24/24.

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7/24/2024 – Another anonymous complaint was lodged against Frechette for the same construction activities referenced above.

7/24/2024 – Frechette attended the Inland Wetlands Agency meeting via zoom.

8/1/2024 – Beutler sent a Cease-and-desist letter by certified mail to Frechette.

8/16/2024 – Frechette Called Beutler to give an update on his progress on meeting the conditions on the Cease and Desist letter. He indicated that he hired Certified Soil Scientist, Rick Zulick, and said Zulick would be at the next IWA meeting with him to discuss the findings. Frechette said an area was identified that silt fencing would be beneficial and he is going to install it. Frechette also said he got the specs on the fill and will be emailing it to Beutler.

8/28/2024 – Frechette and his hired Certified Soil Scientist, Rick Zulick, attended the Inland Wetlands meeting in person. Zulick stated that there is no evidence of wetland soils in the area where fill was deposited. Zulick stated that he dug three deep test pits on the property and gave their general location while pointing at a photograph of the property. No wetlands report was submitted. Wetlands Agency requested Beutler go to the property for an erosion inspection on 8/29. Frechette agreed to Beutler conducting an inspection. Wetlands Agency authorized Frechette to install erosion control measures and spread winter rye seed over disturbed area.

8/29/2024 – Beutler called, texted, and emailed Frechette to schedule an inspection. Beutler was unable to get ahold of Frechette. Beutler and Roberson went to Frechette's house and rang the doorbell. There was no answer. Roberson wrote a note and left it with her business card on the door. No inspection took place.

8/29/2024 – Frechette emailed Beutler in the evening stating he had retained land use attorney Dorian Famiglietti and spoke to Environmental Scientist, George Logan.

8/30/2024 – Roberson scheduled a meeting with Frechette and his team for 9/5/2024, in-person at Coventry Town Hall.

9/5/2024 – Roberson, Beutler, Penney, and Attorney Slater met with Frechette and his Attorney, Dorian Famiglietti, and his Environmental Scientist, George Logan. The next steps were discussed, and it was determined that Beutler and Logan would conduct a site visit together to discuss temporary erosion control measures.

9/13/2024 – Beutler, Frechette, and Logan met at 77 Tall Oak Drive. Logan and Beutler walked the property beyond the site of clearing and filling to determine how far the erosion and sediment transport extends. Two areas were identified where E&S controls would be beneficial.

9/25/2024 – Environmental Scientist, George Logan and Attorney Dorian Famiglietti attended the Inland Wetlands Agency Regular Meeting to discuss the items on the cease and desist letter that will need to be addressed. Logan presented some preliminary ideas for remediation by using an example of another successful remediation project he conducted.

9/26/2024 – Beutler, Frechette, and Logan met at 77 Tall Oak Drive. Logan and Beutler inspected the existing erosion and sediment controls and gave Frechette feedback on installation. Some silt fencing needed to be re-installed, as it either wasn't toe-ed in or wasn't toe-ed in sufficiently. Frechette said he would have it corrected.

10/21/2024 – Beutler emailed Logan and Frechette, asking if they would be attending the October 23 Inland Wetlands Agency Regular Meeting. Beutler also asked to schedule a site visit to inspect the

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corrections to erosion and sediment controls. Logan responded that he will not have a more formalized plan until November 20th, Inland Wetlands Agency Regular Meeting.

10/22/2024 – Famiglietti responded to Beutler’s email from 10/21/2024, looking for confirmation that the violation item will be continued to November’s meeting. Famiglietti also addressed George with a list of items the Agency will want to see from him at the next meeting.

10/23/2024 – Beutler gave the IWA an update during the Inland Wetlands Agency Regular Meeting. IWA requested Beutler send another formal letter to reaffirm the items on the cease and desist letter that they expect to be addressed. Beutler agreed to send letter.

10/30/2024 – Beutler sent Logan a text message requesting a date/time for the next inspection. Logan stated he would get back to Beutler.

11/4/2024 – Frechette initiated a Freedom of Information Act request.

11/4/2024 – Beutler sent Logan a follow up text message, requesting for an inspection.

11/5/2024 – Beutler received a response from Logan and an inspection is scheduled for 11/5 at 11am.

11/5/2024 – Beutler, Frechette, and Logan met at 77 Tall Oak Drive. Logan and Beutler inspected the existing erosion and sediment controls. Silt fence is in adequate condition. There was no evidence of new sediment transport. There was winter rye seed spread on the soil but there has been no rain for it to germinate. Logan and Frechette discussed putting down more seed right before the next expected rain to improve germination. There was some discussion regarding Logan’s preliminary plan and location for a proposed created wetland Logan will be presenting at the November 20, 2024, Inland Wetlands Agency Regular Meeting.

11/7/2024 – Beutler and Penney drafted a Status Letter that acknowledges progress that has been made to address items on the cease-and-desist action list.

11/8/2024 – Status Letter was mailed certified mail to Frechette. Beutler sent a digital copy of the Status Letter in an email to Frechette, Logan, and Famiglietti.

11/20/2024 – George Logan attended the IWA meeting via zoom. He presented an alternative location to create a new vernal pool as mitigation for the loss of the original watercourse. The Inland Wetlands Agency asked for a plan for the disturbed area as well.

12/12/2024 – George Logan emailed Beutler to state he may be unavailable for the December 18, 2024 IWA Regular Meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

12/17/2024 – Attorney Dorian Famiglietti emailed Beutler to state that Logan and Frechette were unable to attend the Inland Wetlands Regular Meeting on 12/18/2024. Beutler replied that the matter would be continued to January’s Inland Wetlands Meeting.

12/18/2024 – During the Inland Wetlands Regular Meeting, Penney provided the email from Attorney Famiglietti sent to Beutler on 12/17/2024. The IWA read through the Violation Timeline and requested that Beutler make more frequent inspections of the erosion and sediment controls, specifically after rain events.

12/19/2024 – Due to the rain event overnight, Beutler sent an email to Frechette, Famiglietti, and Logan requesting permission to conduct an inspection. Frechette responded and gave Beutler permission.

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12/19/2024 – Beutler and Town of Coventry’s new Zoning Enforcement Officer, Heidi Leech, conducted an inspection. The majority of disturbed area is stable, there is some germination of the grass seed, and the silt fence is functioning. There is an area that could use an extension of silt fence and another area where the silt fence has built up silt. Beutler received a phone call from Frechette after the inspection and she verbally conveyed the outcome of the inspection summarized above. A summary of the inspection and photographs of the areas that need correction were sent via email to Frechette, Famiglietti, and Logan.

1/2/2025 – Beutler sent an email to Frechette, Famiglietti, and Logan, requesting a site visit to inspect the erosion and sediment controls after two days of rain.

1/3/2025 – Beutler was denied access to conduct an inspection due to Frechette being unavailable until January 13th. Logan sent an email to Beutler stating he would conduct an erosion and sediment control inspection on 1/4/2025. Beutler requested a report from George.

1/6/2025 – Beutler sent a follow-up email to Logan to ask about his inspection on 1/4/25. Logan responded, stating he did not make it out there for the inspection.

1/10/2025 – Beutler sent another follow-up email to Logan to ask if he had conducted the inspection yet. Logan responded, stating he has not conducted the erosion and sediment control inspection. Beutler responding asking when Logan expects to conduct his inspection. Beutler did not receive a response from Logan. Beutler also asked Attorney Famiglietti, via email, about scheduling an inspection on January 13th with Frechette present. Attorney Famiglietti responded asking Frechette to contact Beutler to schedule an inspection.

1/13/2025 – Beutler sent a follow-up email asking when Frechette will be available for an inspection. Frechette did not respond.

1/14/2025 – Penney sent a follow up email stressing the importance of Beutler conducting an erosion and sediment control inspection prior to the Inland Wetlands Agency Regular Meeting on 1/22/2025. Penney asked Logan and Famiglietti if they would be attending the meeting. Logan responded, stating he is unavailable for the IWA meeting on 1/22/2025.

1/16/2025 – Beutler sent an email to Frechette, Logan, and Famiglietti asking for their availability to schedule a Special Meeting to provide the Inland Wetlands Agency with a detailed plan for disturbed area and the creation of the new vernal pool from Logan. Famiglietti responded with her availability.

1/20/2025 – Famiglietti responded to the email again, asking Logan to weigh in on his availability.

1/21/2025 – Beutler sent an email to Frechette, Logan, and Famiglietti with the Agenda for the IWA meeting on 1/22/2025. Beutler requested that Frechette attend the meeting to give an update and asked again for his and Logan’s availability to schedule a Special Meeting.

1/22/2025 – Frechette and Logan responded to the emails referenced above (1/16/2025 – 1/20/2025). Frechette requested that Beutler call him to schedule an inspection. Logan gave his availability to accompany Beutler on the inspection, but asked if we should wait until the snow melts. Beutler responded agreeing that we should wait until the snow melts to conduct the inspection. Beutler asked once again for Frechette and Logan’s availability to schedule a Special Meeting.

1/22/2025 – No one from Frechette’s team attended the Inland Wetlands Agency’s Regular Meeting on January 22, 2025. Beutler gave a brief overview of the newer entries on the Violation Timeline. Beutler

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explained that she has not been permitted to conduct any inspections since 12/19/2024. Beutler proposed scheduling a Special Meeting to best accommodate Frechette’s team, as they have not been regularly attending the IWA regular meetings. The Agency chose 2/11/2025 for the Special Meeting and requested Beutler send another status letter to Frechette’s team to acknowledge Frechette’s lack of progress in remediation, Town Staff’s lack of access for inspections, and notify Frechette of the upcoming Special Meeting.

1/23/2025 – Frechette emailed Beutler with his availability for a Special Meeting.

1/24/2025 – Beutler sent an email to Frechette and his team to notify them of the scheduled Special Meeting date and time. Famiglietti responded, asking Logan to confirm his availability. Logan responded to give confirmation.

1/27/2025 – Beutler drafted a Cease and Desist Status Letter on behalf of the Inland Wetlands Agency and mailed it Certified Mail to Frechette. Beutler emailed a digital copy of the document to all parties CC’d on the letter.

1/28/2025 – Famigliette responded to Beutler’s email sent on 1/27/2025, confirming that Frechette’s team would be attending the Special Meeting scheduled for 2/11/2025.

2/7/2025 – Due to anticipated inclement weather, the Special Meeting format was changed from “hybrid” to “fully remote.” Beutler notified all parties of this change and supplied the Agenda with the Zoom link via email.

2/10/2025 – Beutler sent an email to Frechette, Logan, and Famigliette requesting a site visit ahead of the February 11, 2025 Special Meeting. Beutler did not get a response.

2/11/2025 – Frechette’s team attended the IWA Special Meeting via Zoom. The Town’s Attorney, Kenneth Slater Jr., was also in attendance. Logan provided a proposal for the creation of a vernal pool/wetland. The IWA reiterated the need for a site plan with topographic features and clearly depicting current conditions and proposed activities. The IWA stated that they expect Frechette’s team to be present during the March 26, 2025 Inland Wetlands Agency regular meeting. In regard to Beutler’s lack of access to the property to conduct erosion and sediment control inspections, Attorney Reiser, formally known as Attorney Famigliette, stated that Frechette’s team will continue to try to coordinate inspections with Beutler.

2/20/2025 – The ground has been covered in ice and snow but was expected to begin thawing out the week of 2/24/2025. Beutler sent an email to Frechette and his team to schedule an erosion and sediment control inspection for Monday the 24th or Tuesday the 25th. Beutler also requested a standing inspection date/time on a weekly basis to maintain a consistent inspection schedule and ensure that Frechette has plenty of notice. Frechette’s attorney, Reiser, responded to Beutler’s email stating that Frechette is unavailable, but Logan will meet Beutler for an inspection on Monday the 24th. There was no response regarding a regular inspection schedule.

2/24/2025 – Beutler sent an email to Frechette’s team to reschedule the site visit due to the lack of snow melt. Logan agreed to meet Beutler on site for an erosion and sediment control inspection Wednesday 2/26/2025 instead.

2/26/2025 – Beutler and Logan met at 77 Tall Oak for an inspection. The ground was still covered in snow and ice. Beutler and Logan checked the areas of concern identified during Beutler’s last site visit on 12/19/2025. The corrections summarized in the inspection email to Frechette’s team on 12/19/2025 had

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been not addressed. Beutler and Logan discussed meeting back out there the following week once all the snow has melted.

2/26/2025 – Beutler sent an email to Frechette’s team, summarizing the inspection on 2/26/2025 and provided dates for a weekly inspection schedule for March. Logan confirmed his availability for the proposed dates. Beutler sent calendar appointments to Frechette and Logan for inspections on the following dates: 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, and 3/26.

2/26/2025 – Frechette’s team did not attend the Inland Wetlands Agency Regular meeting. Beutler gave a summary of the inspection that occurred earlier in the day and provided pictures of the inspection. There were newer machinery tracks through the disturbed area. The Agency directed Beutler to reiterate to Frechette that no additional unpermitted work was to be conducted in the disturbed area. The Agency also discussed the site plan requirements and the anticipated restoration plan for the disturbed area. The Agency directed Beutler to remind Frechette and his team of the site plan requirements outlined in the Cease-and-Desist letter and remind Frechette’s team that the Agency is still expecting a restoration plan for the disturbed area from Frechette’s Wetland Scientist.

2/27/2025 – Beutler sent an email to Frechette and his team to convey the Agency’s concerns about the equipment tracks through the disturbed area. Beutler asked Frechette to respond with an explanation for the purpose of moving equipment through the disturbed area. Beutler also reminded Frechette and his team of the site plan requirements in the cease-and-desist letter and stated that the Agency is still expecting a restoration plan for the disturbed area. Beutler reminded Frechette’s team that they are expected to produce the above items at the March 26, 2025, Inland Wetland Agency Regular meeting.

3/3/2025 – Frechette called and left a voicemail for Penney to ask what should be included on the site plan. Penney called him back and explained the items in the cease-and-desist letter. Penney followed the phone call with an email, further explaining the items in the cease-and-desist letter and provided Frechette with contacts for several land surveyors.

3/3/2025 – Frechette emailed Beutler and stated that no activity is occurring in the disturbed area. Frechette explained that the equipment tracks are from retrieving firewood. Frechette confirmed that he would be present for the erosion and sediment control inspection on 3/4/2025.

3/4/2025 – Beutler responded to Frechette’s email, acknowledging his response.

3/5/2025 – Frechette joined Beutler on the erosion and sediment control inspection. Beutler showed Frechette the areas that need additional erosion and sediment controls. Frechette asked if he could use hay bales and Beutler explained the proper way to install staked in haybales if that’s what will be used. Beutler and Frechette discussed restoration options for the disturbed area. Beutler suggested the use of a conservation seed mix to create a meadow with a row of woody plantings to delineate the line between the area to be untouched and the area for Frechette’s uses. Frechette was amenable to this form of restoration for the disturbed area and Beutler advised Frechette to discuss this option with Logan for guidance from an expert. Frechette gave Beutler permission to conduct her next inspection on 3/12/2025 in Frechette’s absence. Beutler asked him to send the authorization for access to his property in the form of an email. Frechette sent it in a text and Beutler saved the text to Frechette’s file.

3/12/2025 – Frechette sent Beutler a text message saying he would be unable to join Beutler on the E&S inspection that morning. Frechette also stated that he did manage to install more silt fencing even though the ground was still frozen. Frechette said with the warmer weather coming, he should be able to finish the silt fence corrections by this weekend (15th-16th).

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3/12/2025 – Beutler conducted an erosion and sediment control inspection and there was one major area of concern where concentrated flow undermined the silt fence and there is a gully carrying silt down to the second row of silt fence. Some sediment is being carried around the second row of silt fencing where I have asked for more silt fencing or haybales be installed. An email with the summary of this inspection was sent to Frechette's team.

3/18/2025 – Dorian Famigliette (Reiser) submitted a Regulated Activity Wetlands Permit Application on behalf of David Frechette, for an after-the-fact permit for filling the watercourse and the proposed creation of new vernal pool as remediation.

3/18/2025 – Beutler wrote a comment to Famigliette (Reiser) on the OpenGov permitting platform, thanking her for submitting the application and asking if a site plan would be ready in time for the next IWA meeting on March 26, 2025. Famigliette (Reiser) responded, stating that Frechette has been unable to find an available land surveyor to create the site plan. Famigliette (Reiser) then said that Logan may have someone who could create it and Frechette is following up with them.

3/19/2025 – Beutler met with Frechette onsite at 77 Tall Oak for an erosion and sediment control inspection. Frechette had contractors fixing and adding silt fence to areas of concern. By the time the inspection was completed, all areas of concern had been addressed. Frechette reiterated what Famigliette (Reiser) stated about Frechette having difficulties hiring a land surveyor. Frechette stated that he had emails proving that he was trying to get a land surveyor. Beutler asked Frechette to forward the emails to her so she can show them to the IWA at the meeting next week. Frechette forwarded the emails and sent a follow-up text to Beutler stating that Andrew Bushnell of Bushnell Associates LLC, Land Surveyor and Engineer, would be surveying the land that abuts Frechette's and Bushnell would look at Frechette's property while he's there.

3/26/2025 – Beutler conducted an erosion and sediment control inspection. All areas that were corrected on 3/19/2025 were still functioning. No erosion and sediment control issues were identified. Beutler and Frechette had a discussion about the neighbor's property being for sale, the property boundaries being determined by the land surveyor, and Beutler pointed out that Frechette was likely going to need to move the pallets of pavers because they appeared to be on his neighbor's property. Following that discussion, Frechette moved the pallets of pavers he had been storing on his neighbors' property by tracking equipment across the disturbed area.

3/26/2025 – Frechette attended the IWA meeting and discussed his application. The application did not include a site plan with the necessary information the Agency had asked Frechette to provide. There were inconsistent details and missing information. The Agency ultimately decided to deny the application without prejudice due to incompleteness. When discussing the violation with Frechette, they instructed him to stop tracking equipment across the disturbed area until after the cease and desist has been lifted.

3/27/2025 – Beutler drafted a decision letter outlining the decision IWA made to deny Frechette's application without prejudice. The decision letter was sent via certified mail to Frechette and emailed to Famigliette (Reiser), Logan, Roberson, Drumm, Slater, and Penney. Famigliette (Reiser) responded to Beutler's email, asking to meet ahead of the next application submission to ensure details contained in the application are correct. Famigliette also asked if they should hold off on submitting another application until the site plan is complete. Beutler responded via email, agreeing that holding a meeting with Town Staff prior to the next application submission is a good idea and confirmed that the application should not be submitted without the site plan.

3/27/2025 – Beutler called Frechette to discuss the outcome of the IWA meeting and ask if he had any questions or concerns. The conversation was brief, and Frechette stated he understood the outcome.

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4/1/2025 – Beutler sent a text message to Frechette to ask to continue the Wednesday morning inspection schedule established for March.

4/2/2025 – Frechette responded to Beutler’s text from the previous day, agreeing to maintain the Wednesday morning inspection schedule for the following week. Frechette also stated that the silt fence was still up and in the same condition as the previous week.

4/9/2025 – Beutler conducted an erosion and sediment control inspection. All erosion and sediment controls were functional and in good condition. Frechette moved more pallets of pavers across the disturbed area. Beutler called Frechette to ask about the additional pallets and he said they were the remaining pallets on his neighbor’s property. He confirmed that he moved the remaining pallets prior to the IWA directing him not to track equipment across the disturbed area. Beutler observed a crew of land surveyors on site during the inspection.

4/16/2025 – Beutler conducted an inspection and found all erosion and sediment controls to be in working order. During the inspection, Beutler observed water collecting in a low spot in the disturbed area. Beutler observed egg masses and a large number of tadpoles in the large puddle. Using an app called “On X Hunting,” Beutler was able to pinpoint her approximant location, which aerial mapping shows to be in the same approximant location of the vernal pool/watercourse that was filled in by Frechette. Beutler called Frechette’s Environmental Scientist, Georget Logan, and left a message about the tadpoles. Beutler also called Hank Gruner, Herpetologist, to inquire about frog breeding habitat and discuss Logan’s proposal to create a new vernal pool/wetland. Gruner asked to see the site and Beutler told him she would get in touch with Frechette to schedule a site visit on 4/17/2025 at 10:30am. Beutler called and left a voicemail for Frechette and requested a callback. Beutler followed the call up with an email to Frechette and his team to recap the inspection and notify Frechette of the site visit with Gruner the following day.

4/16/2025 – Beutler received an email from Logan, stating that he conducted a site visit shortly after Beutler and found what he believed to be eastern toad tadpoles. His email will be shared with the IWA at the next regularly scheduled meeting on 4/23/2025.

4/17/2025 – Frechette sent Beutler a text message stating that he and Logan are unable to join Beutler and Gruner on the site visit but gave Beutler permission to conduct the site visit in his absence.

4/17/2025 – Beutler and Gruner conducted a site visit and inspected the area where the tadpoles were found. Gruner pointed out 3 spotted salamander egg masses and said he believed the tadpoles were wood frogs. He took a sample of the tadpoles with him to confirm the species. Gruner and Beutler walked around the disturbed area and checked every rut and depression holding water. There were more tadpoles, wood frog egg masses, spotted salamander egg masses, and two eastern newts. The most spotted salamander egg masses and wood frog egg masses were found in an area that Frechette excavated next to the pickleball court and future patio area. It is the deepest area of standing water. Gruner and Beutler also visited the site where Logan is proposing to create a new wetland/vernal pool habitat. Gruner stated he would provide a memo with his recommendations and would be present for the next regularly scheduled IWA meeting on 4/23/2025.

4/17/2025 – Beutler sent Frechette a text message after the site visit was over and asked him if he would be available to meet on site later so she could show him the deeper area of standing water next to the pickleball/patio area. Frechette agreed to meet Beutler on site at 2:30pm.

4/17/2025 – Beutler and Frechette walked the property and Beutler showed Frechette the spotted salamander egg masses, the wood frog egg masses, tadpoles, and one eastern newt. Beutler showed Frechette the area of deeper water next to the pickleball/patio area and Beutler asked Frechette not to do anything else to the area to give the eggs the best chance at hatching and completing the aquatic stage of

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their life cycle. Frechette agreed not to disturb the area further. Beutler explained the purpose of Gruner's site visit and explained that Gruner will be providing recommendations to Frechette, his team, and IWA. Frechette said he would attend the next IWA meeting and will ask Logan to attend as well. Frechette also said the land surveying team completed the field work and will be drafting a site plan soon.

4/17/25

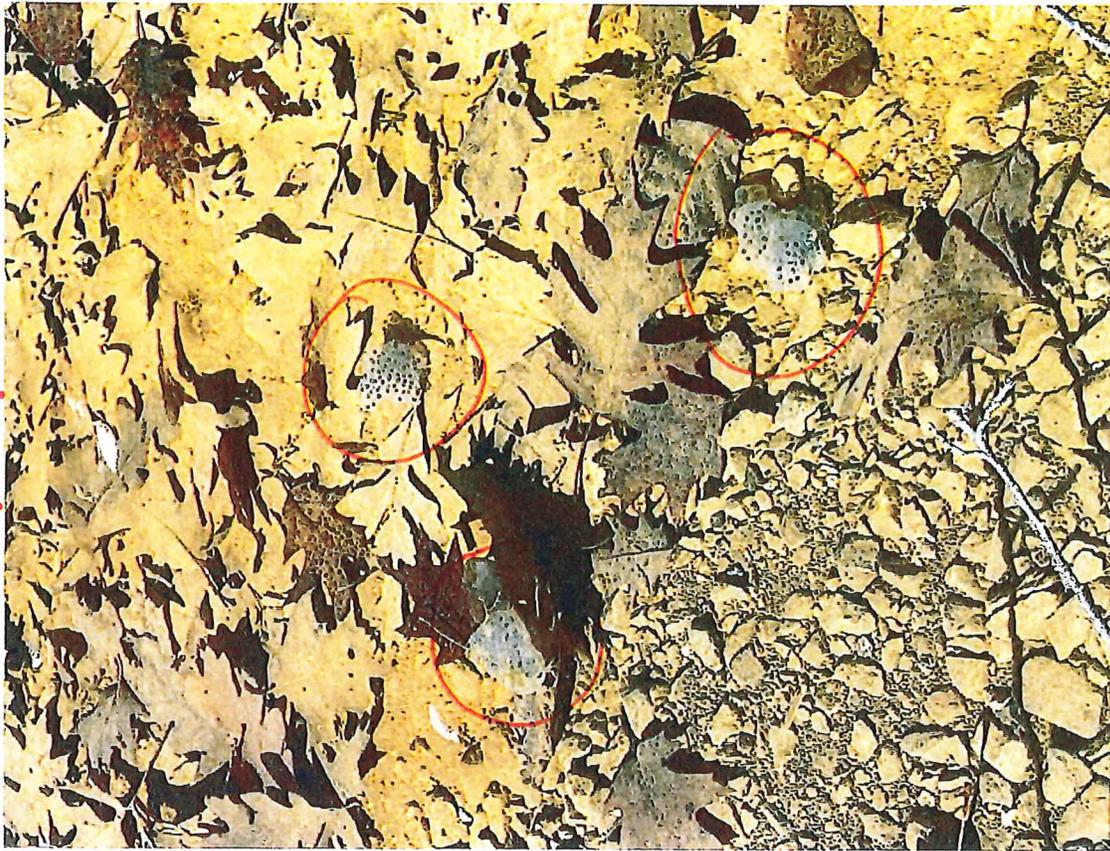
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Spotted Salamander eggs

4/17/25

2



3 Spotted Salamander
egg masses

4/17/25

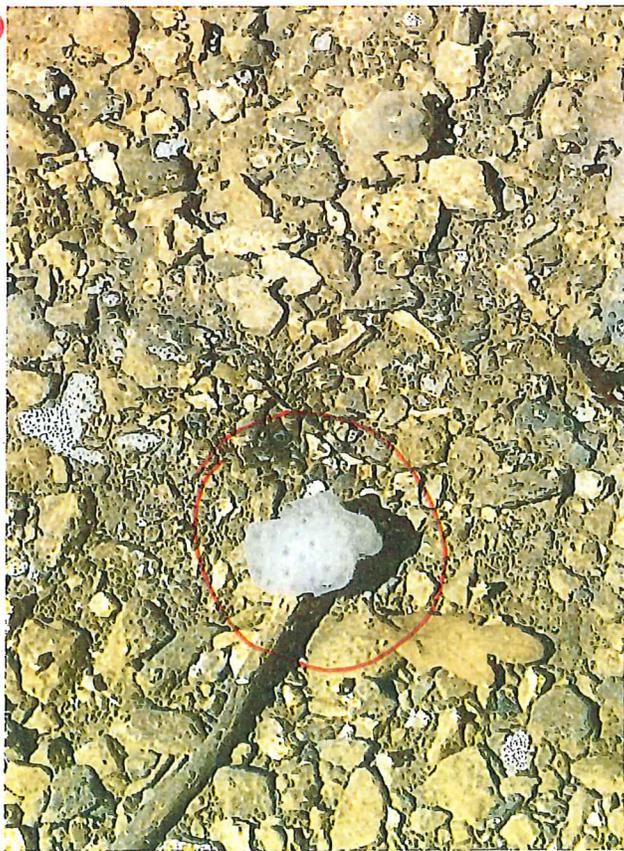
4



Wood frog egg mass

4/17/25

3



Spotted Salamander egg mass

4/17/25

5



Wood frog egg masses in excavated area

4/17/25

6



excavated area next to Pickleball court area. Standing water was approximately 10 inches deep

4/17/25

7

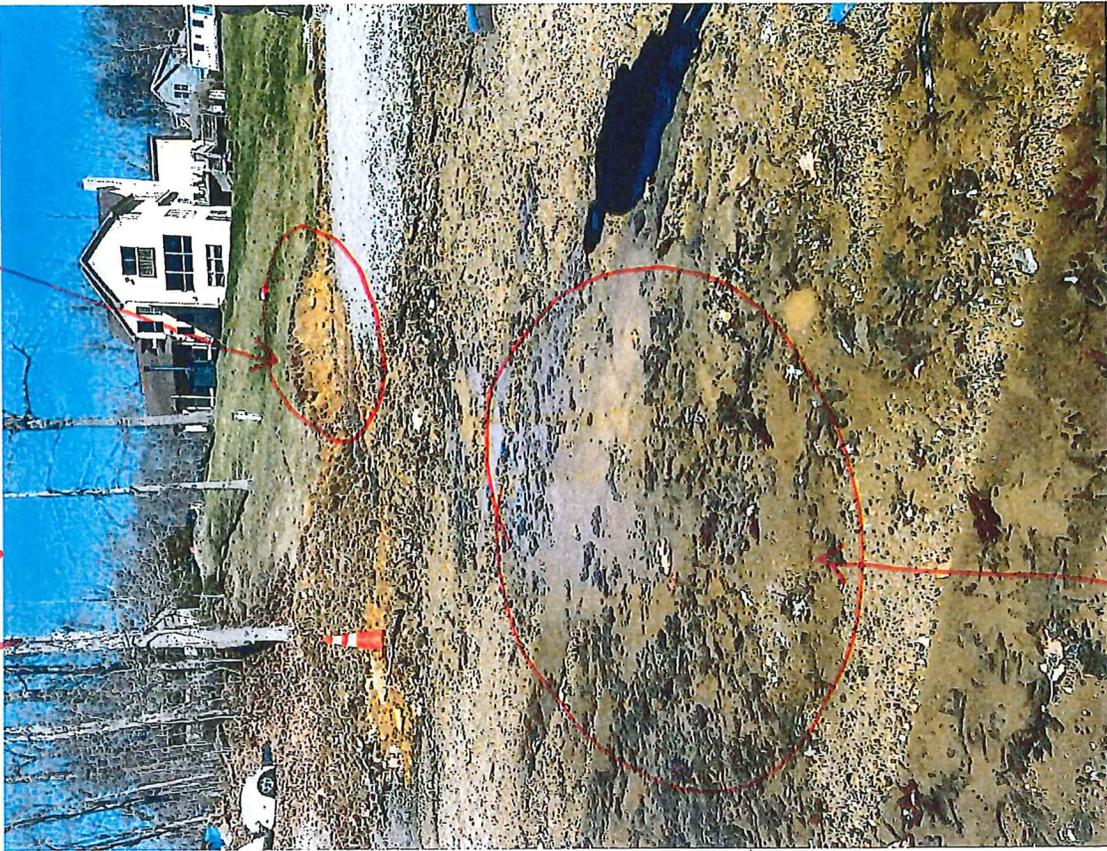


newt found in ruts
near excavated area

4/17/25

8

excavated
area



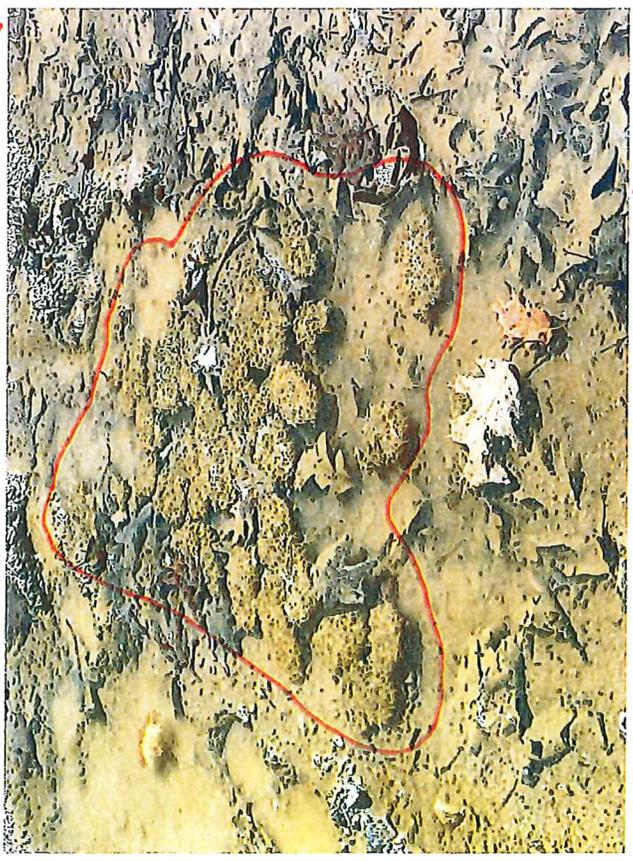
newt found in
fire rut

4/17/25 10



Freshly hatched wood frog tadpoles in small puddle

4/17/25 9



Large number of wood frog egg masses in tire rut

4/17/25

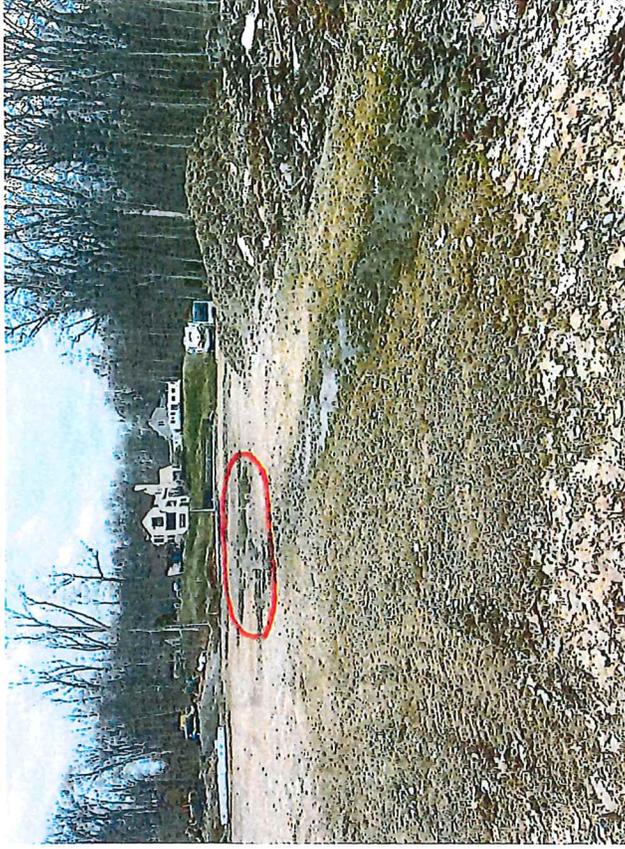
11



wood frog egg masses in
tire ruts

4/16/25

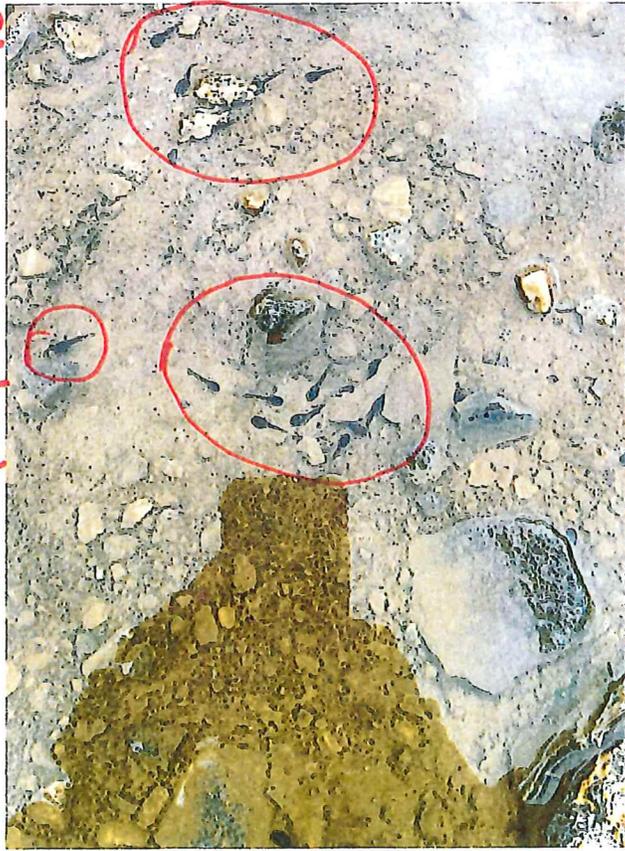
12



Shallow puddle where initial
tadpoles were observed.

4/16/25

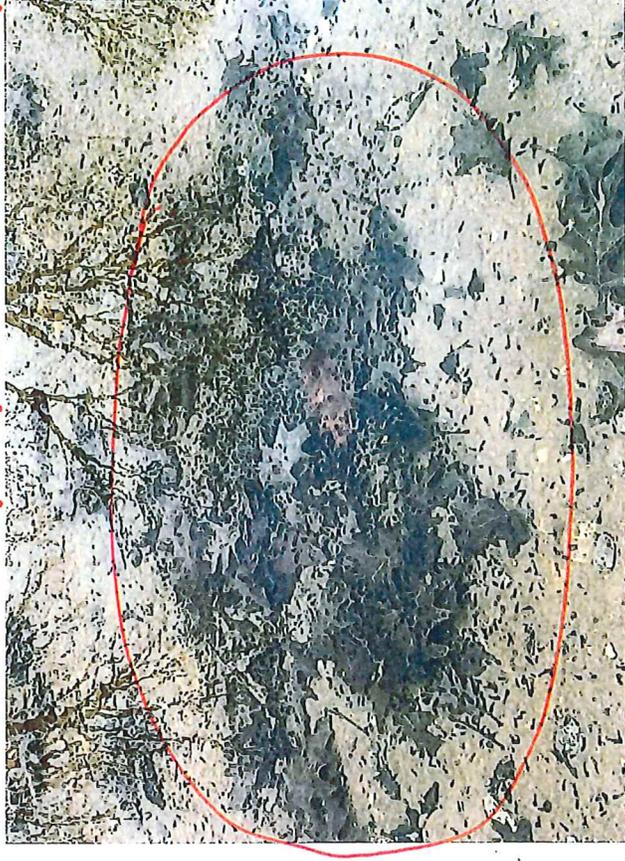
13



weed frog tadpoles found
in initial puddle in approx.
area of watercourse that
was filled in.

4/16/25

14



large number of tadpoles
in initial puddle

Lindsay Beutler

From: George Logan <rema8@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 6:31 PM
To: David Frechette; Famiglietti, Dory; Dory Famiglietti; Lindsay Beutler
Cc: Todd Penney; Jana Roberson
Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Re: Inspection 4/16/2025
Attachments: MAP 3.pdf; MAP 2.pdf; 20250416_120023.jpg; 20250416_123946.jpg

Lindsay,

Sorry, I was on conference calls throughout the day, and missed your call. However, Dave did call, and I literally ran out to the site before my next call at 1 pm.

Would love to see Hank, I have not talked with him in years (well maybe pre-Covid), and will attempt to get there by 10:30 for half hour, but would have to move a meeting, which I might not be able to.

What you have there is a pair, at most, of breeding eastern toads that laid their eggs mass strings, and now you have their tadpoles. If the water persists for about 5 to 6 weeks we will have a bunch of toadlets leaving the temporary ponding. That is is a big if, however, because as temps go up, this ponding will dry up, even though it will also speed up metamorphosis.

It is more likely than not that this shallow (2-4 inch deep) ponding is an ecological sink for the toads, and that full metamorphosis will not take place.

By the way, I did follow the "swale" or intermittent watercourse (the jury is out for this one) below the wetland next to which we will be proposing our mitigation. The channel more or less ends near the property boundary, and there is evidence of erosion along the way, some new some older.

The Commission had asked if there would be enough hydrology/watershed to support the created wetland. Well, based on the viewing of how far the channel persists, I would say, yes. It is obvious that the wetland on Dave's property has been expanding laterally, since it has been receiving a higher volume of water over per-development conditions. Tall Oak Drive in its entirety, all the way to the northern cul-de-sac drains to the CB at the southern cul-de-sac which discharges to the wetland which has its headwaters off-site to the northwest.

We have asked the surveyor to give us 1-foot contours at the proposed mitigation area, and also survey the larger trees, which are marked with pink ribbons.

If I cannot make it, let us know what Hank thought, and give him my greetings.

Best,
George

George T. Logan, MS, PWS, CSE

REMA Ecological Services, LLC

43 Blue Ridge Drive, Vernon, CT 06066

860-649-REMA (7362) (O) 860-883-8690 (C)

NOTE: Our office has moved from Manchester to Vernon, CT

On Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 12:11:10 PM EDT, Lindsay Beutler <lbeutler@coventry-ct.gov> wrote:

All,

I conducted an inspection this morning and all erosion and sediment controls are functional.

I observed a large puddle (only about 2 inches deep in the deepest area) in approximately the same location as the watercourse used to be. I have attached a screen shot of my location from an app called On X Hunt to show where I was standing when I was looking at the puddle. The puddle is full of tadpoles. Other two attached pictures show the tadpoles.

I plan to do another site visit tomorrow at 10:30am and will have Herpetologist, Hank Gruner, with me to review the area where the tadpoles are, as well as George Logan's proposed location for the new vernal pool/wetland.

Dave, I called and left a message to call me back to confirm that 10:30am is okay tomorrow.

George, I called you as well and left a message about the tadpoles.

Best,
Lindsay Beutler
Wetlands Agent & Erosion Control Officer
Town of Coventry
P: 860.742.4062

**To: Lindsay Beutler
Wetlands Agent & Erosion Control Officer
Town of Coventry, CT**

**From: Hank Gruner
Herpetologist**

RE: 77 Tall Oak Dr. Compensatory Wetlands Mitigation

Date: April 22, 2025

Per your request, I have reviewed the proposed plan to create an approximately 3,600 sf wetland, including a vernal pool, as compensatory mitigation for the filling of an approximately 11,000 sf vernal pool located at 77 Tall Oak Drive in Coventry, CT.

Based on analysis of historic aerial photographs of the parcel, a natural forested vernal pool was present in 2012. Forest cover immediately surrounding the pool was cleared in 2013 and the pool basin appears to have been altered between 2014-2015. The pool annually held water in the spring (March/April), but typically dried by late summer (September). This seasonal hydrology is typical of vernal pools in the northeast. There is evidence that in some years (the pool retained water into August (2021)). This is an important consideration in any mitigation planning, as the hydroperiod (i.e., length of time water is retained) of vernal pools is a strong predictor of the biological community present, and the pool's ecological function. The pool was filled in 2023.

During a site visit conducted on April 17, 2025, there was an apparent groundwater flow draining from north to south across the area where the pool was previously located, forming shallow puddles throughout. A recent excavation located along the base of the sloping lawn just to the north of the pool's footprint held an estimated 10 inches of water. Precipitation in previous weeks may also have contributed to the water present.

Within these flooded depressions the following were observed: 79 wood frog egg masses and numerous recently hatched wood frog tadpoles, 12 spotted salamander egg masses, and 2 adult eastern newts. These observations represent continued reproductive attempts by the early spring-breeding amphibian community of the now filled pool. The species present demonstrate high fidelity to breeding sites. Each year adults make their way from the surrounding forest to the pool to reproduce, returning to the forest once breeding is completed (except newts, which remain in the pool). Many of the young that hatch, develop and leave the pool later in the summer, also return to their natal pool to reproduce as adults. The abundance of egg masses, and the species present, provide evidence that the pool typically held water well into the summer. It is highly unlikely that the existing shallow water conditions will persist long enough for successful juvenile recruitment.

However, based on the conditions present, it is my professional opinion that restoration (i.e., attempting to return the pool to its preexisting condition) has a high likelihood of success, and

that restoration is preferable to the attempted creation of a new wetland/vernal pool in the adjacent forest.

My opinion is based on the following considerations: (1) The presence of significant upland forest surrounding the site that provides critical non-breeding habitat for a healthy amphibian population, (2) Evidence of strong breeding site fidelity demonstrated by the amphibian population, (3) An estimated distance of 750 feet to the nearest contiguous natural pool- this is within dispersal distance for colonization, but limiting, (4) Recent timing of the filling which limits the amount of soil compaction that has occurred, and allows for the restoration to occur within the remaining lifespan of individuals having breeding fidelity to the pool, and (5) An apparent groundwater flow and propensity of the site to “pond”. Furthermore, unlike the proposed creation plan, restoration will not result in additional conversion of natural habitat (forest to wetland), and the footprint for the restoration allows for a 1:1 mitigation ratio versus the proposed creation areas 1:3 ratio.

The challenges associated with creating pools through mitigation that replicate the functions of natural vernal pools is well-recognized (EPSC 2021; USACE 2016; Calhoun et.al 2014).

From the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District *Compensatory Mitigation Guidance* document, “Created pools often fail to replicate vernal pool hydrology, and may lure breeding amphibians away from more appropriate breeding sites and potentially serve as a population sink. Replacement of natural invertebrate communities is even more difficult. If loss is unavoidable, mitigation should focus on preservation of lands with existing natural vernal pool habitat (off-site or on-site), and restoration or rehabilitation of existing vernal pools and adjacent terrestrial habitat. Vernal pool creation may be an acceptable form of mitigation for rare, case-specific situations, but any creation projects will require a detailed adaptive management and contingency plan. All creation projects will also require the preservation of appropriate adjacent undeveloped terrestrial habitat.” (see USACE 2016)

A committee established by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Science Advisory Board to review the available research on vernal pool creation and mitigation concluded: “In general, the peer reviewed literature indicates that the creation of vernal pools is very challenging and should only be attempted by either avoiding the pools or restoring pools that may be impacted.” They further noted, “Restoration is strongly preferable to creation of vernal habitats and the potential success rate of meeting mitigation goals is higher. Restoring vernal pool habitats allows for the ability to take advantage of a known hydrology. Creation of new vernal pool habitat starts from an ecological restoration point with too many unknowns.” (see EPSC 2021).

As noted by Calhoun et.al (2014) “vernal pools are among the most difficult wetland ecosystems to create or restore primarily because of their hydrological properties: particularly, the seasonal water regime that is their defining feature.” Calhoun and her colleagues conducted a comprehensive review of the published literature for research on creating vernal pools, much of which also applies to restoration. The recommendations included in the New Jersey report drew heavily from Calhoun et.al 2014. I reviewed my observations with Dr. Calhoun and

discussed this sites restoration vs. creation mitigation scenarios and recommendations with her, and she agrees, restoration is the preferred approach (Calhoun *pers. comm.*).

Recommended key elements of the restoration plan include the following:

1. Goal and objectives

- Restore the physical, hydrological, and ecological functions of the preexisting pool. The project should be timed to complete restoration in the fall of 2025 to enable breeding in the Spring of 2026.
- Recommend consulting with a professional hydrologist to assess the existing site hydrology and to assist in planning and design.
- Recommend consulting with a professional herpetologist/Ecologist to inform design criteria. Key criteria include:
 - Slope of the pool basin- depth at 1 m should not exceed >10 cm
 - Distribute leaves from the surrounding forest within the pool basin to support nutrient cycling.
 - Place branches in several locations, and at varying depths within the basin to support egg attachment.
 - Distribute leaves, branches, and other woody debris in the un-forested area around the pool to provide habitat for migrating and emigrating amphibians, including metamorphosed young.
 - Plant native shrubs and young trees around the pool to facilitate the establishment of canopy cover for the pool. A long-term goal should be to re-forest a minimum of 75% of the area within 100-feet surrounding the pool.

2. Specific and measurable criteria for success

- Physical: Restore a 10,000 -11,000 sf pool.
- Hydrological: Retains water into July-August, with drying between September-October.
- Ecological: Supports successful breeding by wood frogs and spotted salamanders.

3. Monitoring Targets (specific methods to be developed as part of a monitoring plan)

- Minimum 5- year, annual monitoring
 - Hydroperiod: Depth, Pool extent.
 - Amphibian Breeding: Annual egg mass counts, Dip-netting for tadpole/salamander larvae, Evidence of juvenile recruitment.
 - Tree and shrub establishment.
 - Invasive plant spread.

4. Management Plan (specific methods to be developed as part of a monitoring plan)

- Removal of invasive plants.
- Re-planting/seeding around the pool.
- Maintaining ground cover in non-forested areas surrounding the pool.

Literature Cited

Calhoun, A. J.K., J. Arrigoni, J.P. Brooks, M.L. Hunter, and S.C. Richer. 2014. Creating Successful Vernal Pools: A Literature Review and Advice for Practitioners. *Wetlands* DOI 10.1007/s13157-014-0556-8.

Ecological Process Standing Committee (EPSC). 2021. Vernal Pool: Review of Mitigation Approaches. Final Report to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Science Advisory Board. 54 pp.

United States Army Corps of Engineers, New England District. 2016. Compensatory Mitigation Guidance.

https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/portals/74/docs/regulatory/Mitigation/2016_New_England_Compensatory_Mitigation_Guidance.pdf.

HANK J. GRUNER

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Hartford, CT 06106
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60 Townsend Road
Andover, CT. 06232
(860) 712-1308 (cell)
(860) 742-0341 (home)

EDUCATION

The University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Science, Natural Resource Management and Conservation.
May 1980.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Vice President of Programs and Exhibits, The Connecticut Science Center (October 2007-2016, Retired)

Responsible for the development and management of a comprehensive science education program at the Connecticut Science Center which opened in the spring of 2009. The Science Center serves approximately 325,000 people annually including 85,000 K-12 students. Direct supervision of a program and exhibit management team responsible for the Science Center's Discovery Center program for schools, Gallery Science program for the public, Outreach program to schools and community youth organizations, Professional Development program for teachers, Youth program for children in non-school settings, 40,000 square feet of exhibits and 204 seat 3D Theater.

Key accomplishments: Establishment of the Center's *Mandell Academy*, an accredited (Graduate Level, Charter Oak College) professional development program serving more than 500 teachers annually; Serving as co-principal investigator on the *Genome Ambassadors* program a partnership between the Science Center and the University of Connecticut supported by the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement.

Vice President, Programs & Exhibits, Science Center of Connecticut (July 1999 –March 2007)

Manage the Centers wide range of education programs and exhibits including direct supervision (18 FTE/PTE staff) of the education and exhibit departments, the Gengra's Planetarium, and Wildlife Sanctuary. Liaison with government, private and public agencies, and school districts addressing issues in science education. The Science Center of Connecticut is a 75 -year-old private, non-profit educational institution located in West Hartford, CT at a 33,000 s.f. facility that includes 11,000 s.f. of exhibit space. The annual operating budget is \$2.9 million and the annual on-site attendance is over 150,000 (225,000 including outreach initiatives). Project manager for several statewide science education initiatives including *Project SEARCH*, The Center manages this statewide water quality-monitoring and education program in partnership with the CT Department of Environmental Protection and more than 130 high schools. Funded by a \$1.5 million National Science Foundation Teacher Enhancement Award.

Education Director, Science Center of Connecticut (January 1993 - June 1999)

Manage the Center's Education Department including supervision of education staff, grant writing, development and management of program budgets, short-term and long-term program planning,

implementation, management and evaluation of program initiatives, and liaison with government, private and public agencies addressing educational issues.

Environmental Scientist, Science Center of Connecticut (January 1984-December 1993)

Manage the Center's environmental science department and Wildlife Sanctuary. including environmental education programs and exhibits, curate natural history collections, and liaison with government, public and private environmental organizations. Develop and teach education programs to a wide range of audiences including teachers, students, and the public.

Wildlife Research Assistant: Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Wildlife (November 1980-October 1983)

Assist staff biologists on various wildlife research and management projects including: conducting habitat assessments, implementing wildlife restoration projects, and preparing wildlife management plans for State properties. Operated deer check stations and worked on the wild turkey re-introduction program.

RESEARCH & CONSULTING

Research and Conservation Projects:

- Long-term studies of the biogeographical distribution and changes in amphibian and reptile communities in CT and co-author of the book: *Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in Connecticut*.
- Long-term monitoring of timber rattlesnake populations in CT, co-author of a timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) conservation action plan for CT.
- Long-term mark and recapture study of a wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) population in eastern CT, demographic analysis of urban/suburban and rural populations in CT
- Mapping and biological surveys for vernal pool-breeding amphibian communities including, distributional surveys and genetic analysis of unisexual *Ambystoma* salamander populations
- Long-term surveys and analysis of amphibian communities and land use/cover in CT, Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring Project
- Distributional surveys and genetic analysis of central CT leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*, *L. kauffeldi*) populations
- Long-term studies of the distribution and ecology of the five-lined skink (*Plestiodon fasciatus*) in New England.
- Long-term monitoring of eastern spadefoot (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*) populations in CT
- Various projects focused on conservation at the municipal level working with planning and zoning, inland wetlands, and conservation commissions

Biodiversity Coordinator, Connecticut Programs, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance a program of the Wildlife Conservation Society (contract position 2001-2004)

Serve as lead representative for the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance on Connecticut projects. Currently coordinating the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project, a regional initiative involving representatives from seven towns and the Farmington River Watershed Association, to collect and integrate data on biological diversity within land use planning.

Research Associate, Hudsonia Bard College New York (1997-2000)

Serve as a scientific advisor and adjunct researcher on ecological and herpetological investigations conducted through the college.

Consulting Herpetologist (1986-present)

As a professional herpetologist, work with Municipal, State and Federal conservation and planning agencies, private developers and various organizations for the Conservation of New England amphibians and reptiles. Lists of professional conference presentations, publications, and research projects are attached.

Board and Advisory Committee Participation

Boards of Trustees: Connecticut State Museum of Natural History – UCONN (2016-present); Connecticut Pre-engineering Program -CPEP (2012-207); University of Hartford College of Education, Nursing, and the Health Professions Board of Visitors (2013-2016); Connecticut Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology (2008-2010).

Municipal Commissions: Member of the town of Andover, CT Conservation Commission planning and completing a natural resource inventory with recommendations for conservation in preparation for the town's 2025 Plan of Conservation and Development revision.

Advisory Committees: Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's advisory committee for endangered and threatened amphibians and reptiles (1994-present), and taxa advisory committee for the 2025 state *Wildlife Action Plan*; State of Connecticut Department of Education's Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Leadership Committee 2012-2016; Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School (Hartford) School Governance Council (2014-2016); Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Grassland Habitat Conservation Technical Working Group (2007) ; Connecticut Department of Environmental Protections Vernal Pool Working Group (1998).

AWARDS

Recipient of the 2014 Dr. Sigmund Abeles Science Advocate Award presented by the CT Science Teachers Association and the CT Science Supervisors Association;

Recipient of a 2010 Community Partnership Award from the Greater Hartford Male Youth Leadership Program;

Recipient of a 1998 Special Recognition Award by the CT Chapter of the Nature Conservancy;

Recipient of a 1994 Environmental Education Award from the CT Department of Environmental Protection;

Recipient of an Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Certificate of Merit from the Garden Club of America; Certificate of Appreciation from the Guilford Conservation Commission.

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICE PROJECTS

Consulting herpetologist on various infrastructure projects associated with wood turtle populations including; bridge replacement projects in Andover, Columbia, and Coventry, CT and a commercial solar installation in East Windsor, CT

Participating in the Northeast Wood Turtle Working Group coordinating monitoring strategies for wood turtles in the northeastern U.S. (2013-2017).

Assisted in the development of the Northeast Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC) Northeast Amphibian and Reptile Species of Regional Conservation Concern publication (2009)

Advising herpetologist to Parsons, Inc. and the Connecticut Department of Transportation on a long-term monitoring and conservation plan for northern slimy salamanders (*Plethodon glutinosus*) associated with the U.S. Rte. 7 Bypass in Brookfield, CT (2007-20012).

Advising herpetologist to Parsons, Inc., and the Connecticut Department of Transportation on a five-year study of hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) and eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) populations associated with the U.S. Rte. 7 bypass in Brookfield, CT. (2005-2012)

Lead researcher designing and conducting phase II surveys for the federally threatened bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) on the proposed Route 7 upgrade in western Connecticut. (working with Parsons, Inc., and the CT Department of Transportation).

Contracted by VERSAR, Inc. to peer review a planned EPA wetlands publication on amphibian monitoring.

Contracted by the Town of North Stonington to conduct a peer review of consultant data and site plans regarding vernal pools and a proposed golf course development. (2001).

Contracted by the Town of Farmington, CT to conduct a peer review of consultant data and site plans regarding vernal pools and a proposed subdivision (2001)

Contracted by the Roxbury Land Trust to conduct field surveys for amphibians on specific properties of the land trust. (2001)

Conducted a survey and habitat assessment for five-lined skink for a proposed route 66 widening project (contracted by Dr. Michael Klemens and the CT Dept. of Transportation) (2000)

Consulted on the development of biological and physical site survey techniques for a town-wide inventory of vernal pools in Middletown, CT (Middlesex County Soil and Water Conservation District) (2000)

Completed a study on amphibian and reptile populations associated with *Phragmites* and non-*Phragmites* habitats in freshwater tidal marshes of the Connecticut River (in partnership with Hudsonia and funded through the CT Dept. of Environmental Protection's Long Island Sound Fund) (2000)

Assisted in developing proposed amendments to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses regulations for the town of Guilford, CT: The protection of vernal pool ecosystems (in collaboration with members of the Guilford Conservation Commission (1999-2001)

Completed a study on the effect of road curb design on the migration of breeding *Ambystoma* salamanders. (1999-2000)

Assisted in the design and implementation of an assessment of the incidence of malformed frogs in Connecticut populations (In partnership with the CT Dept. Environmental Protection's Natural Resources Center) (1998)

Designed the Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring Program (CAMP) that is a statewide partnership among fourteen education and science organizations actively surveying amphibian populations at 15 sites across Connecticut and currently acting as program coordinator. (Partially funded through the CT Department of Environmental Protection's non-game tax check-off fund) (1996-2009)

Assisted in the design and implementation of herpetological surveys for the Moore Brook Preserve in Salisbury, CT (in partnership with Hudsonia and the Salisbury Land Trust) (1995-97)

Conducted an historical assessment of timber rattlesnake populations in Connecticut funded through the CT Department of Environmental Protection's non-game tax check-off fund) (1992-97)

Conducted a population assessment of the timber rattlesnake in northwestern Connecticut (funded through the CT Department of Environmental Protection's non-game tax check-off fund) (1992-97)

Conducted a survey and habitat assessment of bog turtle populations in northeastern, NY (contract with Hudsonia and the NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation) (1992)

Conducted a herpetological inventory of the Hop-Skunkamaug River system, Tolland County, Connecticut (contracted by the CTDEP Natural Resources Center) (1992)

Conducted a herpetological survey of the Holyoke Range in central Massachusetts (contracted by the MA. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program) (1991)

Assisted in a study of the herpetofauna of Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, Hyde Park, NY (volunteer assistance) (1991)

Served as a consulting herpetologist conducting various amphibian and reptile habitat and population assessments as part of development site plan reviews in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York (contractors include Environmental Planning Services, Inc, REMA Ecological Services, and Environmental Planning and Soil Services among others) (1988- 2007)

Assisted in an ecological study of the bog turtle in Massachusetts (contracted by the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program) (1988)

Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. - Environmental Review Teams (2000-present): Participated as a consulting herpetologist to conduct site reviews and prepare conservation recommendations and reports for assessments of several municipal properties, including for the towns of Andover, Hebron, Middletown, and regional *Airline State Park Trail Master Plan*

Conducted herpetological surveys to collect data on the biogeographical distribution and life history of amphibians and reptiles in Connecticut (data included in the publication, *Amphibians and Reptiles of Connecticut and Adjacent Regions*) (1986-93)

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

American Association of Microbiologists Annual Conference, Mystic Seaport 1997: *Malformed frogs*

Association of Science and Technology Centers Annual Conference 2014. Professional development programs: what is the right fit for your institution? *Featured workshop presentation.*

Association of Science and Technology Centers and the Connecticut Science Center 2014. Science Centers and education Reform. *Co-developed and hosted a two-day session for science center professionals, including serving as featured presenter.*

Communities working for wetlands, 3rd annual American Wetlands Conference, May 1999, Boston, MA (sponsored by The Terrane Institute): *The Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring Program*

Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Conference 2022, 2000. *Presentation on Insights into the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Connecticut: What do 43 years of research and conservation work tell us?" and presentation on reptiles associated with wetland habitats and conservation and management issues*

Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference November 2024, 2023, 2013, 2004: *Presented sessions on: The role of municipal commissions on conserving amphibian and reptile diversity, Natural Resource Inventories, Exploring the biodiversity of watersheds: A community approach, and connecting the physical and biological characteristics of vernal pools.*

Connecticut Association of Independent Schools Fall Conference, October 1998: *Amphibian and reptile monitoring programs*

Connecticut Audubon Society. 2016-present. Facilitator for "Herpetology" Master Naturalist workshops.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 2007, 2013 Municipal Inland Wetland Commissioners Training Program Segment III. *Presented two workshops on vernal pool ecology and monitoring.* Also, featured in the *Functions and Values of Wetlands and Watercourses* DVD published in 2013.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Forestry Workshop, October 1999, Burlington, CT *Forestry Practices and the Conservation of Vernal Pool Breeding Amphibians*

Connecticut Forest and Park Association Forestry Workshop, February 2000 Middletown, CT (sponsored by the CT Forest & Park Assoc.): *The conservation and management of amphibian populations associated with vernal pools and other forest wetlands*

Middlesex County Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Workshop: Identifying Wetland Soils, Fauna and Flora, June 1999, Burlington, CT. *Wetlands and Wildlife*

Northeast Partners for Amphibians and Reptiles 2023, 2006: Served on the steering committee to organize and present this annual three-day conference hosted in Connecticut in 2006 and 2023. Co-presented a session on "ethical herping" (2023) and presented a workshop on the biodiversity planning (2006).

Our Hidden Wetlands: A Symposium on Vernal Pools in Connecticut, Wesleyan University November 1997 (sponsored by Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental and The Wetland Management Section of the CT Department of Environmental Protection): *Towards an effective amphibian monitoring program*

Three Rivers Community College – Annual Environmental Issues Seminar (2000-present): Guest lecturer on various herpetological and conservation-related topics

University of Connecticut, First Annual Connecticut Wildlife Conservation Conference, May 2006, Storrs, CT. *Presented on the conservation status of Connecticut's amphibians and reptiles.*

PUBLICATIONS

Granville, K., A. Helton, and H. Gruner. 2017. Effects of salinity on ephemeral wetland food webs (Poster). Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources 2017, Storrs, CT.

Gruner, H., and D. Quinn. 2024. Sharing the Landscape with Amphibians and Reptiles. *The Habitat* 36(2), Summer 2024. Connecticut Association of Inland Wetland and Conservation Commissions.

Gruner, H. and J. Victoria. 2021. Connecticut State Account, *In, The Timber Rattlesnake: Life History, Distribution, Status, and Conservation Action Plan*. Technical Publication, Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. (A. Breisch et al eds.)

Gruner, H.J. 2012. Slimy salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*) ridge-wide habitat study, Kent-Bethel, CT. Final report, prepared for the CT Dept. of Transp. Project 18-113, U.S. Route 7 Bypass, Brookfield, CT

Gruner, H.J. 2009. Trail of the paper snake. *In: Courting the wild: love affairs with reptiles and amphibians*. Ecos Systems Institute, Stanardsville, Virginia.

Gruner, H.J. 2008. Northern slimy salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*): Survey and habitat assessment with recommendations for conservation. Final report, prepared for the CT Dept. of Transp. Project 18-113, U.S. Route 7 Bypass, Brookfield, CT

Gruner, H.J. and R. D. Haley. 2007. Vernal pools as outdoor laboratories for educators and students. *In: Seasonal Forest Pools: Conserving isolated wetland functions in northeastern North America*. Calhoun and DeMaynadier (Editors), CRC Press.

Gruner, H.J., M.W. Klemens and A. Persons. 2006. The Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project: a model for inter-municipal biodiversity planning in Connecticut. MCA Technical Paper No. 11, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, New York.

Gruner, H.J. and J.A. Victoria. 2000. Connecticut. State conservation links and information. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.
<http://www.harding.edu/~plummer/stateconservation.htm#connecticut> (December 2000)

- Gruner, H.J. 2000. Frogs and *Phragmites*: SEARCH staff participating in Connecticut River study. *The Watershed Monitor*, Vol. 6 No. 4. The CT Department of Environmental Protection and Science Center of CT.
- Gruner, H.J. 1999. Amphibian volunteers leave no stone unturned. *Connecticut Wildlife*, January/February 1999, p. 4, CT Department of Environmental Protection.
- Gruner, H.J. 1998. Amphibians as environmental sentinels. *The Watershed Monitor*, Vol. 4 No. 3. The CT Department of Environmental Protection and the Science Center of CT.
- Gruner, H.J. 1998. Toward an effective amphibian monitoring program. Pp. 18-20 In *Our Hidden Wetlands: Proceedings of a Symposium on Vernal Pools in Connecticut*, B. Fellman ed., Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Study and The Wetland Management Section of the CT Department of Environmental Protection.
- Gruner, H.J. 1996. The Historic and current distribution of the timber rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus* in Connecticut. Unpubl. Report to the CT Dept. of Environmental Protection Natural Resource Center. 15 pp.
- Gruner, H.J. 1996. An assessment of timber rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus* populations in northwestern Connecticut. Unpubl. Report to the CT. Dept. of Environmental Protection Natural Resource Center. 16 pp.
- Gruner, H.J. and M.W. Klemens 1991. Herpetological survey of the Holyoke range Hampshire County, Massachusetts. Unpubl. Report to the Mass. Div. of Fish and Wildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. 24 pp.
- Holloway, S, T. Rofuth, H. Gruner, A. Mimo. 1998. Can applied science in environmental monitoring transform science education? *The Education Forum* Vol. 62, No. 4, 10. pp.
- Kiviat, E., and H.J. Gruner 2001. Herpetofauna in tidal marshes of the Connecticut River. Unpubl. report to the CT Dept. of Environmental Protection's Office of Long Island Sound. 19 pp.
- Klemens, M.W., H. J. Gruner, D. Quinn, and E. Davison. 2021. *Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in Connecticut*. CT. Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection, State Geological and Natural History Survey Bulletin.
- Klemens, M.W., E., and H.J. Gruner. 2006. From planning to action: biodiversity conservation in Connecticut towns. MCA Technical Paper No. 10, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, New York.
- Quinn, D., H.J. Gruner, and S. Cronkite. 2012. Eastern box turtle and eastern hog-nosed snake final monitoring report. Prepared for the CT Dept. of Transp. Parsons Transportation Group Project 18-113/129, U.S. Route 7 Bypass, Brookfield, CT
- Tutwiler, M. S., H. Gruner, J. Johnkoski, S. Inga and M. Brady 2014. The impact of whole school professional development on STEM achievement: a case study. Paper presented at the International Conference of STEM in Education, Vancouver, 2014.
- Watkins-Colwell, G.C. and H.J. Gruner. 2007. The Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring Project (Poster session). The Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles Annual Conference 2007.