

RLA LEVESQUE ASSOCIATES, INC.

40 School Street, P.O. BOX 640, Westfield, MA 01085

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May 16, 2025

April Doroski, Chairperson
Town of South Hadley Conservation Commission
116 Main Street
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

**RE: Response to Peer Review Comments
Request for Determination of Applicability
506 Granby Road, South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075
(Map 32, Parcel 52)
RLA Project File No. 240926**

Dear Chairperson Doroski and Commissioners:

We have reviewed the wetland delineation peer review letter issued by GZA on May 13, 2025 for the above referenced site and would like to provide an update on the revisions that have been made:

1. The original delineation was done in the Fall of 2024, during drought conditions, and at such time, flow within the wetland resource area was not observable which made the determination of whether it was a BVW or intermittent stream challenging. I revisited the site on May 15th, 2025 and a healthy flow of water was present. I concur with the peer reviewer's comments presented on Table 2 of the report. The noted flag labeling, and location adjustments, were made in the field and any moved flags were survey located. Please see the accompanying revised "Conservation Filing Plan", dated May 16, 2025, which depicts these corrections to the wetland delineation flag type, sequencing, and location.
2. I agree with the finding that a BVW exists across Granby Road, offsite to the north of the subject property. A segment of this BVW, within a jurisdictional vicinity to the subject property, was flagged in the field with sequentially numbered pink flagging labeled "D-100" through "D-104". This wetland resource area is well beyond the anticipated locus of a future project site at the rear of 506 Granby Road, however this wetland resource area and respective 100' buffer zone has been added to the revised "Conservation Filing Plan".
3. During RLA's field work on-site, I had noticed numerous unlabeled pink flags already existing within the interior of the upland forested area, northeast of Conti Drive. These flags are not associated with RLA's wetland delineation and their purpose is unknown. I had removed as many as I could to avoid potential confusion with our delineation, but apparently I had missed a few.

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Please disregard any unknown flags that are not labeled or shown on the "Conservation Filing Plan".

4. Please find attached revised wetland determination data forms. The delineation was done in accordance with *Massachusetts Handbook for Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands*, Second Edition, Jackson, S.D, D.J. Henson, D. Hilgeman, M. McHugh, and L. Rhodes, 2022, Boston, MA., Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water resources, Wetlands Program; and *Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, Environmental Laboratory. Technical Report Y-87-1*. U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS; 2012 *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region*, ed. J.S. Wakely, R.W. Lichvar, and C. C. Noble; ERDC/EL TR-12-1. *Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (Version 2.0)*.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me at ryann@rlaland.com

Sincerely,
R LEVESQUE ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ryan Nelson
Wetland/Soil Scientist & Project Manager