

**TO: Ms. Meghan Lally, Chair, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
Town of Andover, 17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232**

FROM: Hank Gruner, Herpetologist

**RE: IWWC 20-21, 12 Webster Lane - Subdivision and new residential
construction**

DATE: August 31, 2020

At the request of the IWWC I have been asked to provide an assessment of potential impacts to the wetlands/watercourses based on a review of revisions that have been submitted (site plan dated 8/10/20)

In my June 18, 2020 report to the IWWC I noted that the intermittent forested wetland/watercourse that drains along the eastern boundary of the parcel serves as an ecological corridor, providing connectivity for wetland-dependent and other wildlife across the landscape, an important function of wetland systems (see section 10.2(a) of the IWWC Regulations).

Almost the entire length of the driveway falls within the 100-foot upland review area. Because the location of the proposed driveway is within close proximity to the wetland/watercourse, adverse indirect impacts to the habitat quality of this system would be expected in my opinion.

Depending upon the activity(s) and conditions, disturbances within distances of 150-feet within upland areas surrounding wetlands and watercourses can occur. Disturbances resulting from residential development adjacent to wetlands and watercourses include: an increase in sediment and chemical influx via stormwater run-off, the introduction or spread of invasive plants, and an increase in nutrient inputs, among others. Undisturbed upland areas serve as important buffers helping to maintain water quality and important ecological functions of wetlands and watercourses.

The following recommendations should be enacted to mitigate impacts from activities and development within the 100-foot regulated area of the wetland/watercourse draining along the eastern area of the parcel.

- Eliminate the “bump-out” that extends to the east at the top of the driveway, and maintain a gravel rather than paved driveway, to increase water infiltration and reduce the transport of sediment and chemicals from impervious surface run-off.
- Maintain a 25-foot strip of un-mown or annually mown land that extends out from the existing tree/fence line adjacent to the wetland/watercourse. Re-vegetation within this area will enhance buffering capacity.
- Install and maintain appropriate sediment and erosion control barriers along the edge of disturbance and maintain until areas of bare soil are stabilized. The barriers should be installed prior to site preparation.

Although it has been noted that it is highly improbable that runoff would be directed to the small wetland depressions located on the west side of the parcel, out of an abundance of caution these should also be protected with sediment and erosion control fencing.